Volume XVIII, Issue No. 340 www.saipantribune.com 50¢





OPINION METER

This week's poll: Will you spend more, less, or about the same as last year, on your Christmas shopping this year?

Let your voice be heard! www.saipantribune.com o cast your vote



INSIDE

Terror Suspects

India suspects that two senior leaders of a banned Pakistani militant group masterminded the three-day terrorist attacks that killed 171 people in Mumbai.

ASIA...Page 24



Grammy Noms

Lil Wayne receives eight Grammy nominations including album of the year for "Tha Carter III."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 28

Miura committed suicide in jail—coroner. PAGE 2 Man found dead in his car in Puerto Rico. PAGE 3

Govt incurs \$18.1M deficit in '08



Dec. 18, 2008.

A boy checks out the lights on the giant Christmas tree on display at the Paseo de Marianas. The tree was officially lit last night, together with the judging of the entries for the

Report: Asian crisis impacted NMI healthcare

Christmas Tree Decoration Contest. The winners of the contest will be announced on

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com

cal revenue is generated primarily from tourism and agriculture, according to the newly released 2008 Health Data Report by the Department of Public Health.

"Funding is the biggest challenge for us," said Public Health

Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez in a news briefing yesterday on the official release of the report.

The report also lamented the shutting down of the garment industry, which was a significant

See REPORT on Page 4

shows total expenditures and other financing uses exceeding revenues and other financing sources, closing fiscal year 2008 at a budgetary deficit of approximately \$18.1 million.



-Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos

As expected, this preliminary report

By AGNES E. DONATO

agnes_donato@saipantribune.com

verspending and slow revenue collections pushed the Commonwealth government to a

deficit of \$18.1 million in the 2008 fiscal year, according to the Department of Finance.

Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, in a preliminary report to the House of Representatives, said the government incurred the deficit after earning \$4.5 million less than expected, and spending See GOVT on Page 4

Legislature passes \$165.4M budget

By AGNES E. DONATO

The Legislature yesterday passed a \$165.4-million budget for fiscal year 2009, including provisions for 10.7-percent cuts against agencies funded by the central government.

The proposed spending limit, now

BY THE NUMBERS

- Personnel: \$112.2 million
- Operations: \$43.7 million
- Utilities: \$9.5 million
- No. of govt employees: 4,019
- Fund contribution rate: 11 percent

See LEGISLATURE on Page 4 Ombudsman bets narrowed down to 4

headed to the governor for his signature,

excludes the self-funding Department of

Public Lands, which will get \$3.1 mil-

lion, and autonomous agencies.

By AGNES E. DONATO

agnes_donato@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The U.S. government is getting closer to naming a replacement for Jim Benedetto as federal labor ombudsman for Northern Pula



Marianas, according to the chief of the Office of Insular Affairs.

OIA Director Nikolao Pula in an email said his office made a selection See OMBUDSMAN on Page 4





2 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE







Local

Miura committed suicide in jail—coroner

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An autopsy has determined the death of a Japanese businessman found dead in a jail cell after being extradited to California in a decades-old murder conspiracy case was a suicide, the coroner's office said Wednesday.

Kazuyoshi Miura, 61, was found hanging in a Los Angeles Police Department cell on Oct. 10.

His lawyer Mark Geragos hired an independent pathologist to examine the body, then said injuries found on Miura were consistent with murder.

Police said Miura hanged himself with a piece of his shirt

less than 24 hours after he was returned to the United States to stand trial for conspiring to murder his wife 27 years ago.

The Miura case was a sensation in Japan, where it was known as "the Japanese O.J. case," in reference to the infamous trial of the former football star O.J. Simpson.

Geragos said pathologist David Posey found deep tissue injuries on Miura's back that indicated a beating. He also said a hematoma on Miura's larynx could have come from forced choking, and that Posey concluded the injury could not have been caused by self-inflicted hanging.

Autopsy results, however, indicated the cause of death was hanging, with no anatomical evidence of other fatal trauma.

Geragos said he was "appalled" the coroners would release the autopsy report when they refused his requests to reexamine Miura's body in light of Posey's findings.

"They said once they release a body, they don't re-examine it," Geragos said. "It's unbelievable to me they would come out with these findings after they ignored our requests."

The case began Nov. 18, 1981, when Miura and his wife Kazumi were shot in a downtown Los Angeles parking garage. Miura was shot in the leg and recovered, but his wife was shot in the head and died after

See MIURA on Next Page



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Palms Resort Saipan

Muna: Levelized rates would help customers

By KRISTI EATON

A six-month levelized power rate could help the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with prepaid meters and allow customers to plan for utility expenses, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said recently.

After studying CUC's financial situation, the Georgetown Consulting Group, hired by the Public Utilities Commission, recommended a fixed six-month rate for the utility company. CUC currently sets monthly rates based on the price of oil.

Georgetown submitted the report in November and CUC could respond by Monday, before public hearings are conducted.

"We agree with the provisional rate as it is right now, to approve the current rate as a provision standpoint," Muña said this week.

December's fluctuating electric fuel rate is 20.7 cents, the lowest it has been in several months.

"I think the sixth-month rate situation allows the stability to look at how we address prepaid meter arrangement, so on one hand that will be a positive. On the other hand, this month-to-month change may be overwhelming" to customers, Muña said.

But there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to stabilize CUC's financial situation, Muña added, noting the debt of \$176 million owed the Commonwealth Development Authority.

PUC recognizes the need for financial stability, he added.

"When you're looking at financials it tells you you'll insolvent," he said. "It's difficult in accounting terms to project if it will be a growing concern, because of all of this burden of liability where debt exceeds assets. How do you cope with that?"

According to Georgetown's recommendations, CUC would set the six-month rate based on the estimated cost of fuel for six months. To estimate the cost of fuel, three variables are used: system requirements (sales, uses and losses), generation dispatched and efficiency, and estimated per until fuel price.

The consultants' report does note that because of CUC's current financial state it could be difficult for the utility company to fund any large under-recovery stemming from the levelized rate. But there is a remedy, according to the report. PUC should consider a "cap" on the amount of under or over recovery. When reached, the rate level could be modified and approved by PUC.

In Wednesday's continuation of a state of emergency for CUC, Gov. Benigno Fitial listed the levelized rate as one of his iustifications for the emergency declaration.

CUC's month-to-month rate fluctuations allows the utility company to pass through customers the increases and decreases in the world price of oil, he wrote.

"The rate freeze will prevent CUC from purchasing needed supplies and material, and, if world oil prices rise from the relatively low, economic-depression-based oil rate levels during that period, will prohibit CUC from buying the oil required to power all of its generators, including the generators of its three IPPs (independent power producers), Telesource, PMIC and Aggreko."

Man found dead in his car in Puerto Rico

A 48-year-old man who had Tire Shop, he found Cruz lyjust gone to the hospital for a dialysis checkup died later in the driver's seat of his car at a tire shop in Puerto Rico Monday morning.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesperson Police Officer 2 Jason T. Tarkong said yesterday that Arthur James Cruz, 48, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead by a doctor at 11:21am on the same day.

Tarkong said that on Monday at 10:54am, a police officer responded to YUCO Tire Shop on Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) in Puerto Rico after DPS received a call about an injured person.

When Police Officer David Rabauliman arrived at YUCO

ing on the driver's seat with no pulse.

The officer noticed blood around the victim's mouth and nose. A pool of blood was also found on the garage floor next to the driver's side of the car Cruz was in.

Medics arrived and transported Cruz to CHC, where he was pronounced dead.

Tarkong said police learned that the victim was at CHC at 6am that day for a dialysis checkup.

Cruz apparently left the hospital at 9am and went to YUCO Tire Shop to fix his tire.

A witness noticed Cruz coughing and spitting out blood. Witnesses offered assistance to the victim but he refused, saying, "No, thanks."

Cruz went inside his car and sat down on the driver's seat. Later, when a witness noticed him vomiting blood, he asked a friend to call 911 for emergency. (Ferdie dela Torre)

MIURA

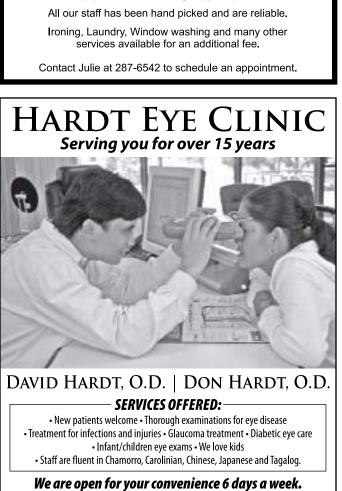
From Page 2

lingering in a coma for a year.

Miura was convicted in 1994 in Japan of plotting his wife's death and was sentenced to life in prison, but that country's high court reversed the verdict and acquitted Miura in 2003.

Los Angeles County charged Miura with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in 1988. He was arrested in February during a trip to Saipan and extradited to the United States.





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Camacho leads newest batch of Saipan firefighters

Funkugub is NMI's 4th female firefighter T. Aldan was the salutatorian.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

REPORTER

Nineteen new firefighters, including a woman, are joining Saipan's Fire Division.

The 19 fire cadets from Saipan graduated yesterday at the 9th Cycle Fire Academy.

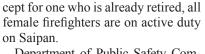
The new firefighters took their oath of office before CNMI Supreme Court associate justice Alexandro C. Castro during a ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Joaquin T. Camacho emerged as the cycle's valedictorian while Albert Lee

Robert P. Camacho and Jerome Q. Repeki were both adjudged most physically fit.

Robert P. Camacho was also chosen as top firefighter, while Linus Mizutani Jr. received the gallantry award.

Christine S. Funkugubk, the lone female in the cycle, became the fourth female firefighter in the CNMI. Ex-



Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela challenged all the new firefighters to do their "best with honesty, loyalty, dedication, and integrity."

"Don't ever forget that the badge you wear is a faith entrusted in you as a public servant and that badge is as good as the person who wears it," Tudela said.

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Commissioner Tudela and Fire acting director Juan I. Wabol presented the certificates and awards to the graduates.

The 13 other new firefighters are Jesse D. Arriola Jr., John C. Babauta, Rodney C. Cabrera, Francisco A. Cruz, Gary S. Cruz, Robert C. Cruz, Lorenzo V. Deleon Guerrero, Alejandro M. King, Ralphael L. Magofna, Richard D. Manalo Jr., Benjamin T. Manglona, Elden M. Sablan, and Vincent F. Sablan.

In an interview with Saipan Tribune, valedictorian Camacho said he feels that everybody in the cycle deserves to get the award because they all went through the training and succeeded.

"Being a valedictorian is only through points; through graduation everybody is valedictorian," said the 26year-old Camacho.

He said the training was intense and that there's a lot of curriculum that they had to go through.

Funkugub told Saipan Tribune that graduating as the only female in the cycle made her very proud of herself.

"It's hard," said the 20-year-old Funkugub about the four-month academy. "I did it for my family, especially my mom."

Firefighter Lt. Kevin L. Aldan said the academy lasted for four months and that all the graduates will be assigned on Saipan.

"They're all the same with the other batches. The only difference is that every cycle that comes through, you will be lucky if there is a female. This batch has one," said Aldan, who served as the officer-in-charge for the Fire Academy.

With the addition of the 19 new graduates, Saipan now has 89 firefighters.



Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, extreme left, and Fire Acting Director Juan I. Wabol, extreme right, pose with the 19 graduates of the 9th Cycle Fire Academy at the Pacific Islands Club's Charlie's Cabaret yesterday morning.

GOVT

From Page 1

\$13.6 million more than continuing appropriations.

Because of failure to pass a budget for FY2008, the government went on "continuing resolution," spending at the prior year's level of \$160.1 million. However, the government collected only \$155.6 million, and spent \$173.7 million.

"As expected, this preliminary report shows total expenditures and other financing uses exceeding revenues and other financing sources, closing fiscal year 2008 at a budgetary deficit of approximately \$18.1 million," Inos said.

He added that the report was "preliminary and unaudited." A final report will be issued by Dec. 31 and it will include the final audit report for FY2008.

Revenue shortfall

In his report, Inos attributed revenue shortfall to the significant decline in business gross revenue tax collections, which reached \$3.4 million less than estimate, another \$2.6 million less in excise taxes, and at least \$2.6 million less in garment user fees.

"Although a notable increase [\$2.6 million] in hospital collections was achieved, and modest increases were realized in various license fees, nonresident worker and alien registration fees, and MPLT interest income, such increases were not significant enough to offset the combined effect of the severe decline in the former three major revenue sources," Inos said.

He added that the much anticipated "cover-over" taxes—or taxes collected by the federal government from Northern Marianas workers since the islands became a U.S. commonwealth—have not been received.

Excess expenditures

The excess expenditures, Inos said, were a combination of personnel costs accounting for approximately \$8 million, \$3.5 million in operations, and utilities expense of \$2.1 million.

Inos said the excess payroll cost resulted mainly from the lack of austerity measures in place during the fiscal year.

He added that the projected decrease in personnel outlays due to reduction in employer contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund was not achieved because the anticipated savings were "plowed back into the system and expensed by way of fuel subsidy to [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]."

"If that subsidy was in fact treated as payment of government utilities, [the] \$2.1 million over-expenditure in utilities expense could and would have been averted," he said.

Further, Inos said the \$3.5 million in excess expenditures under the operations category was primarily attributed to excessive medical referral costs and unbudgeted local share of Medicaid expenditures.

"These expenditures are net of Compact Impact fund transfers. The unfunded and unremitted portion of the employer contribution to the NMIRF calculated at approximately \$16.3 million has not been accrued and therefore, does not affect the expenditure amounts reported," he said.

LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

The latest version of the budget is the product of numerous compromises between both houses, and includes many of the concerns raised by the Department of Finance about earlier drafts. During debate on the floor, lawmakers raised several concerns about the specific provisions. But they agreed that the budget, as currently proposed, was better than nothing at all.

As Rep. Victor Hocog noted, it is "not a perfect budget," but it is balanced and it sets spending guidelines for the government. Rep. Tina Sablan echoed his statement, underscoring provisions that offer proportionate budget cuts, priority for the essential services, controls against unnecessary hiring, and reporting requirements for the Department of Finance.

The House of Representatives passed the legislation by voice vote, and the Senate approved by a unanimous vote.

Under the Legislature's proposal, personnel costs will account for \$112.2 million, or about two-thirds, of the budget. The remainder will go to operations, \$43.7 million, and utilities, \$9.5 million.

The size of government is capped at 4,019 employees.

Taxes, fees, and other government charges are expected to fund \$156.7 million of the total expenditures. To augment the general fund are \$5.2 million federal reimbursements for the costs linked to Micronesian immigration—or Compact Impact funds-and \$3.5 million of reprogrammable funds from delayed infrastructure projects.

The key provisions of the budget in-

- 10.7-percent cut against general fund agencies, except for essential services such as the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Corrections;
- 11-percent employer contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund;
- Prohibition against reprogramming of appropriations for utility expenses;
- Ban against the use of appropriated funds for lawsuits between CNMI government agencies;
- Lateral transfer of immigration employees, who cannot get jobs with the U.S. government under the federalized immigration system, to other CNMI government offices;
- A salary and hiring freeze. Exemptions provided for most medical professionals, policemen, firefighters, and teachers.

REPORT

From Page 1

source of revenue for the government. Data showed that the 2007 total health expenditure was \$38.65 million, with 22 percent of the budget spent on healthcare. This is about \$2 million less than the amount in 2006.

This comes even as the need for healthcare services on the islands is

"Obesity and diabetes are rampant, our cervical cancer rate is significantly high, and the average life expectancy of our people remains lower than that of the U.S. [mainland]," Villagomez said.

He acknowledged that the recent in-

creases in rates at the hospital and satellite clinics are staggering to those already experiencing financial setbacks, yet these barely reflect the high cost of providing quality healthcare to the islands.

"There are no expectations that these trends will change any time soon, and no easy answers to address the problems. However, one of the greatest steps we can take as an island is to take prevention seriously," he said.

Spending cuts

With its decreasing budget, DPH already anticipates a reduction in healthcare spending.

Data showed that federal funding has

seen an increase over the years but this is mainly due to the addition of programs such as the nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children, which was introduced in 2007.

"Healthcare in the CNMI continues to face major challenges in the areas of quality care and financing health care delivery," the report noted.

However, it said that significant efforts have been made to maintain critical services in a world of soaring healthcare costs.

The report said that these concerns have been recognized for many years but with the deepening financial crisis in the CNMI, "there is an increasing pressure to find solutions that will improve this situation."

DPH said a current strategic plan is under review. The plan aims to guide efforts in working toward creating a financially stable healthcare system to improve the health of all citizens in the CNMI.

The data showed that there was a steady increase in healthcare expenditures from 2003 (\$40.2 million) to 2004 (\$40.4 million). In 2005, it went up to \$44.7 million, then dipped to \$41.2 million in 2006 and further down to \$38.7 million in 2007.

Federal funding, in the form of grants, showed a steady increase including \$2.67 million in 2003, \$2.95 million in 2004, \$3.47 million in 2005, \$5.21 million in 2006, and \$6 million in 2007.

Great tool

Villagomez said the 2008 Health Data Report is a "great tool for the healthcare system" in the CNMI as it would help not only DPH and medical practitioners in planning for their programs but it will also serve as a guide for policymakers.

He said that when DPH asks for increased funding, the Legislature would have a grasp of the health problems and other issues affecting the delivery of healthcare services on the islands.

Although the data does not present the full spectrum of health services, he said it is an attempt to communicate what is available and provides a snapshot of how the various DPH programs and services are performing.

OMBUDSMAN

From Page 1

on Nov. 24, 2008. The OIA will make an announcement once it hears from Minerals Management Service, anoth-

er agency within the Department of the Interior, which makes the actual offer to the selected candidate. No one in OIA may contact the nominee until MMS has reported to OIA that the individual has accepted the offer, Pula said.

"Things are a bit slow when it comes

to federal hiring because of the various hoops we have to go through. Moreover, the vetting of applications is done at [the Office of Personnel Management] and the Department's Personnel Office, not at OIA per se. I was hoping to have an Ombudsman by now but it's

taking a bit longer," he said.

According to Pula, there were 53 applicants for the job. Four of them made the "competitive certificate list." Each of the four who made the list had a Saipan mailing address.

OPM and MMS Personnel handle all

aspects of career-service job announcements for positions under the Office of the Interior Secretary. Although OIA is the hiring office, all that OIA receives from OPM and MMS Personnel is the certificate list from which to choose the most qualified candidate.

Schools to lose teachers, students under federalization

By KRISTI EATON

The tourism industry and local business won't be the only ones affected by new federal immigration laws; schools within the CNMI will also see a decrease in students and teachers.

On June 1, 2009, the transition period will begin, limiting the number of contract workers in the CNMI. Non-U.S. resident students and contract teachers and staff within the Public School System and private schools could be affected. Students who are U.S. residents but have foreign national parents could also be affected.

It's obvious schools will be affected, but like Grace Christian Academy principal Faith Dela Rosa said, it's unclear to what extent.

"Right now, we do not know," she said. "Yes, we do have some contract workers in our school, but we don't know yet what will happen and the students also. We don't really know yet, it depends on the regulations that will be finalized."

More than 60 percent of the school's staff members are contract workers, Dela Rosa said. She was not sure how many students could be affected.

The GCA principal said the visas for skilled professionals would possibly help retain foreign national teachers. Under the H-1B visa for highly skilled professionals, the visa holder must have a four-year postsecondary degree and certification that no U.S. citizen is available for the job. The visa holder must be paid the U.S. national prevailing wage. The visa can be

extended indefinitely.

Dela Rosa said the school has been conducting cost-cutting measures in order to be able to pay the wages that will be necessary, as well as keep up with the minimum wage increases currently in effect.

Hiring U.S.-qualified teachers has always been a struggle, Dela Rosa said.

"That has always been the priority, to get the U.S. citizens or the lem is, even if they are here, they will go back and back out."

There have been instances when teachers leave after a month or even a day, she added.

The Public School System also has problems hiring mainland teachers. This year it has been more difficult than in the past.

PSS was expected to hire 20 teachers from the U.S. for this school, Ramon Diaz, act-

ones here," she said. "The probing Human Resources director, earlier said. The past two years PSS had been able to hire 30 to 35 teachers.

> Christina Tudela Masga, principal at Hopwood Junior High School, said she doesn't expect the new immigration laws to affect the teachers at her school as much as the students. She is currently in the process of calculating how many students the school will

lose due to the new laws.

At least 460 of the 10,369 students enrolled in the Public School System this year could be affected because they are not U.S., FSM or FAS citizens. But many more students could be affected if even one of the parents is not a U.S. citizen.

Jimaela Ham, an 8th grader at Grace Christian Academy, is a U.S. citizen but her parents are both Filipinos. Ham said her parents have discussed obtaining green cards.

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Govt debt to Pellegrino, MRC now near \$8M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI government's \$5.46 million debt to Anthony Pellegrino and his Marine Revitalization Corp. has now ballooned to almost \$8 million due to accrued interest.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for MRC and Pellegrino, told Saipan Tribune that they are filing a motion in the Superior Court to make the CNMI government pay the court judgment.

Dotts said the court gave Pellegrino some tax relief, but it's not enough.

"We're trying to get more," the lawyer said.

In MRC and Pellegrino's motion, Dotts said the amount owed on the stipulated judgment as of June 2008, has now reached \$7,735,623.

He said the judgment is currently accruing interest at the rate of \$43,790 a month.

Dotts said the Department of Lands and Natural Resources had agreed to a court judgment ordering it to pay more than \$5 million to MRC. He said the court approved the agreement in January 2005. However, DLNR refused

to pay, according to the lawyer.

MRC, he said, is therefore forced to go to court to compel DLNR to pay.

Dotts said the court's first order in May 2005 ordered DLNR to immediately pay \$20,000 to MRC, and to pay all income from DLNR operations into the court bi-weekly.

"It did neither," he said.

Dotts said the court's second order in May 2008 again ordered the prompt payment of the \$20,000, this time by a certain date. It also allowed MRC to recoup the balance of the

judgment through tax credits.

Dotts said DLNR did not object and did not even appear at the hearing.

DLNR, he said, still did not pay the \$20,000, but at least MRC, by taking credits against its tax liability, was finally able to at least stop losing money as a consequence of its marina deal with DLNR.

Dotts said DLNR now has returned to court, seeking to block even this negative form of relief to MRC.

"To add insult to injury, DLNR has remained in possession and control of the Outer Cove Marina,

collecting, or at least having the ability to collect, usage fees that could be applied to pay off MRC, who built the marina in the first place," he said.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, in his opposition to the motion, said there is simply no authority for the Superior Court, or any CNMI court, to issue an order that directs the Commonwealth to expend funds that have not been appropriated.

"The statutes are quite clear about this," Lochabay pointed out.

Associate Judge David Wise-

man is expected to hear the motion on Dec. 18, 2008.

Pellegrino established MRC to build the Outer Cove Marina in the mid-90s.

A dispute between MRC and the government arose in 2001 after the government not only failed to bar commercial vessels from renting slip space at Smiling Cove, but also actively solicited commercial lessees.

Hermès leather craftsman to demonstrate skill on Saipan

Hermès Boutique announced yesterday the upcoming arrival of a master craftsman from Paris, France, who will be here on Saipan to demonstrate the art of making a signature shoulder bag by hand.

Boutique manager Faye HJ Jang said the master craftsman would arrive on Dec. 27 in time for a nine-day stint at the DFS Galleria where he will share with the public the unique craftsmanship practiced in Paris workshops.

Jang said these kinds of workshops by the Paris-based company have been going on for over 170 years.

She said this would be an opportunity for Hermès' valued customers to see how the master craftsman makes a bag at the boutique from Dec. 27 to Jan. 5.

The demonstrations are set at 11am to 3pm and 6pm to 10pm.

Jang also said customers who have Hermès bags that need to be repaired could bring them to the master craftsman. The bags will be brought to Paris and the original craftsman of the bag would personally fix it.

Jang explained that every Hermès product has a patch that identifies the name and code of the maker of that particular product.

Last year, a master craftsman from Paris also did the same event here on Saipan.

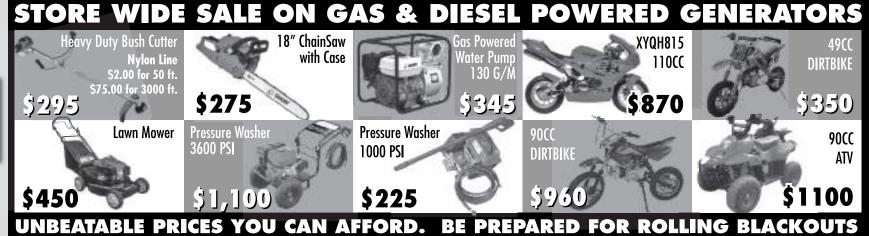
However, Jang said she is not sure who will be coming this time because Christmas time is a peak season for leather craftsmen around the world.

Jang said it takes about 17 days for a master craftsman to finish a leather bag because of the intricate stitching process.

The most expensive item currently on display at the boutique is worth \$26,000. It is made of crocodile skin with diamond designs and accessories. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)







VERA'S BIRTHDAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Veralyn Basa who is celebrating her birthday today, Dec. 6. Greetings from your *kumaire* and family.



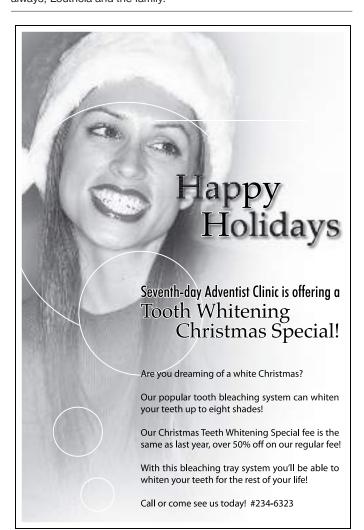
BIRTHDAY GIRL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Tho'leyan Dyommy P. Baza, who is celebrating her birthday today, Dec. 6. Greetings from your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Happy birthday, Patricia A. Reyes, and many more to come! Love you always, Loutricia and the family.



Most food stamp retailers complying with hiring law

By KRISTI EATON

kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com

The Department of Labor is making sure retail stores are complying with a regulation that says all establishments dealing with food stamps must employ at least one U.S. citizen.

The Division of Employment Services is in the process of in-

specting 125 stores affected in the CNMI to check compliance, according to the Labor Department's latest report on the implementation of Public Law 15-108.

So far, of the 107 stores on Saipan, 77 are compliant, three are not compliant and 27 have yet to be inspected. Two of the 11 stores affected on Rota are compliant while the other nine

have not been inspected. On Tinian, the one store inspected so far has been found to be compliant while the other six have not been inspected. Altogether, of the 125 retail stores in the CNMI dealing with food stamps, 80 have been found to comply with the regulation, three have not complied and 42 have not been inspected, according to the La-

bor Department.

The regulation, which went into affect in June 2008, is aimed at opening more entry-level jobs for citizens.

According to the Department of Labor, if retail outlets do not comply by the end of the year the Director of Labor will cancel the permits for all foreign workers at the establishment.

Camp Hyatt hosts first children's Expo

The Hyatt Regency Saipan's Camp Hyatt will be holding its first ever EXPO for kids ages 3-12 years old tomorrow, Dec. 6, 2008.

"It is our first expo, and we are encouraging all the children to come join and have fun!" said Vangie Sablan, camp coordinator. "The children will be exposed to different activities such as swimming lessons, beach sports, and cultural activities taught by some of our very own local people. Most importantly, the kids will learn and experience what Camp Hyatt is all about!"

There will be two sessions for this day (to accommodate those that aren't able to attend morning or afternoon). First session is from 9am to 12pm, and second session will be from 1pm to 4pm. We have a fee of \$10 for Club Elan members and \$15 for non-Club Elan members. Refreshments will be provided for each session.

Early registration is available at the Club Elan reception desk. For more information on registration and fees, contact Vangie Sablan at tel. 234-1234, extension 25 or via email vsablan@hyattsaipan.com. (*PR*)



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Hearings set on Flame Sako lease

A House and Senate joint com- erty located north of Palms Remittee will conduct public hearings next week to receive testimony on the proposed land lease by Flame Sako Resort Hotel and Spa.

The House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Resources. Economic Development and Programs will hold the first hearing on Dec. 9, Tuesday, at 6:30pm at the GTC Elementary School. The second one will be held the following day, Dec, 10, 6:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The proposed resort, a 357room hotel facility to be called the Flame Sako Resort Hotel and Spa, aims to lease a total of 109,003 square meters of propsort Saipan in As Matius.

Members of the public are urged to submit written or oral testimony at the public hearing and to attend these public hearings to learn more about the land lease.

Comments may be submitted as follows:

- (1) Drop-off at Rep. Tebutebs's office or at Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider's office at the Legislative Bldg.;
- (2) Mail to P.O. Box 500586, Saipan MP 96950, Attn Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb or Attn Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider;
- (3) E-mail rtebuteb@yahoo. com or e-mail senatorjuhofschneider@yahoo.com; or
 - (4) Fax to the above numbers.

Comments are due on Dec. 9.

lease may be obtained at the A copy of the Flame Sako offices of Tebuteb or Hofsch-Resort Hotel and Spa land neider. (PR)

CONTACT INFO

House Committee on Natural Resources

- Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb—Chairman, 664-8893
- Rep. Diego T. Benavente —Vice Chairman, 664-8890
- Rep. Joseph N. Camacho—Member, 664-8806
- Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero— Member, 664-8806
- Rep. David M. Apatang—Member, 664-8899
- Rep. Raymond D. Palacios— Member, 664-8897
- Rep. Oscar M. Babauta— Member, 664-8829

Senate Committee on Resources, Economic **Development and Programs**

- Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider—Chairman, 664-8922
- Sen. Maria Erica T. Pangelinan—Vice Chair, 664-8858
- Sen. Felix T. Mendiola— Member, 664-8803
- Sen. Paterno S. Hocog—Member, 664-8812
- Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas— Member, 664-8814



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December 5, 2000

Investors defend 'shooting resorts'

Foreign investors seeking to establish international shooting ranges in the CNMI hosted Saturday an affair that gathered local leaders, prospective investors, and other guests in renewed efforts to calm fears on the safety of setting up so-called "shooting resorts" on the islands. URS Corporation, a newly-chartered business group that has pledged an initial \$25 million for the undertaking, said it was giving the Northern Marianas until the end of December to seize the unique investment opportunity that investors project would boost the local tourism industry.

Japanese travelers know little about Saipanda

A survey conducted by a Tokyo-based marketing firm revealed that only 32.2 percent of the 1,000 Japanese surveyed are aware of the existence of Saipanda campaign promoting the Northern Marianas in Japan. Of this, 65.8 percent learned about it through television commercial, 34.2 percent through newspapers and magazines and 16.1 percent through flyers/travel pamphlets. K.K. Creative Assist was chosen by MVA to conduct a marketing survey on the CNMI's market share in Japan as well as determine the effectiveness of its advertising campaign after over one year of using the Saipanda character.

December 5, 2001

Military drops 'heavy equipment' on Tinian

The US military has started unloading heavy equipment on Tinian amid reports that it is planning to use its leased land on the island as a holding area for captured members of the al-Qaida network of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, aside from Afghan refugees. Emergency Management Office Deputy Director Mark S. Pangelinan told the Saipan Tribune that they received a message from the US Navy late yesterday afternoon, saying that there will be a "heavy equipment drop" on Tinian for ten days. Based on an EMO advisory, the activity would have started yesterday at 2pm and would have lasted for three hours. Pangelinan said he is not aware as to what heavy equipment the military is unloading on the island.

NMI garment industry faces tougher global competition

Citing numerous preferential trade treatments given to other countries by the United States, the Saipan garment industry braces for a stiffer global competition in 2002 amid the continuing economic recession. Saipan Garment Manufacturing Association Executive Director Richard Pierce said the garment industry has troubled waters ahead due to competition brought mainly by the favorable treatment from the mainland US to several countries. Pierce explained that the Saipan garment industry will be forced to compete with factories in other countries that would be able to provide products of the same quality at a better price as a result of these preferential treatments.

December 5, 2002

NMI youths' behavior alarming

Latest analysis from a youth risk-survey conducted last year by the Public School System showed that more teenagers in the CNMI having sex. The PSS' Selected Results from the 2001 CNMI High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that 50.9 percent of the students have had sexual intercourse, and that 34.5 percent had it with one or more people. Among high school students, 8.5 percent of respondents had sexual intercourse before the age 13, while some (5.1 percent) middle school respondents said they first had sex before 11 years old.

Govt works on getting \$19-M loan

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is racing against time to work out the technical aspects of the \$19-million loan that the government is aiming to obtain from lending institutions, in the hope of paying off its rebate and refund obligations before Christmas Day. Committee Chair Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz disclosed yesterday that the Senate panel is coordinating with the Marianas Public Lands Trust and the Babauta administration in this effort. "What will happen is, a lending institution will lend us the money but MPLT will guarantee the loan. That's how you can borrow the money--with a good interest rate and to make sure that we get the money. MPLT might float the bond in our behalf because they have over \$50 million sitting on their coffers," explained Dela Cruz.

rugain In Every Aist Sale starts Dec. 5 to Dec. 10

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10 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Lynn A. Knight Publisher
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Terror's tipping point

he world is justifiably outraged over the bloodletting in Mumbai, and Indians are right to demand a reckoning from their government for its failure to protect innocents as well as justice for murderers allegedly linked to an Islamic extremist group based in Pakistan. But neither the Indian nor the Pakistani government should allow an act of terrorism to escalate into greater hostilities between Hindus and Muslims, or into a hot conflict between the two nuclear-armed countries.

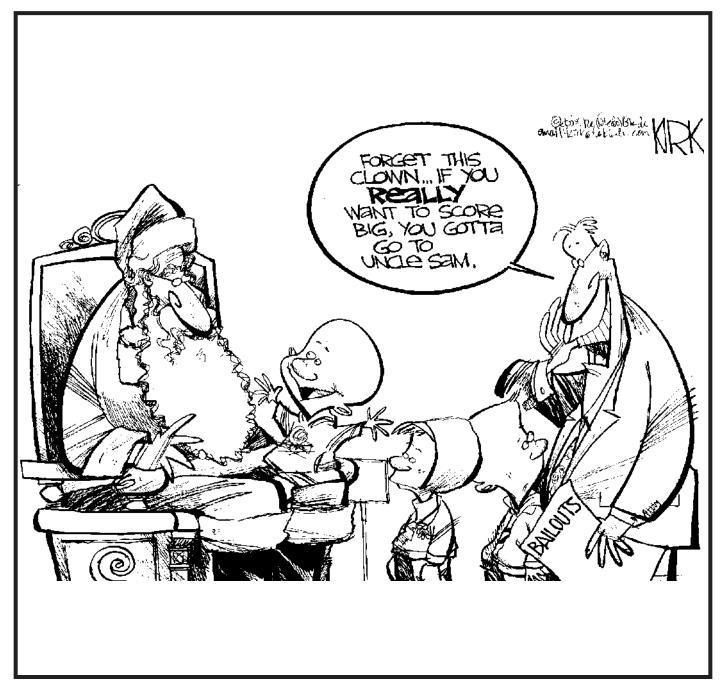
Lashkar-e-Taiba has spent decades fighting Indian rule in the disputed Kashmir region, reportedly with at least past help from members of the Pakistani military. The group was suspected in the 2001 suicide attack on the Indian Parliament in New Delhi that pushed the two countries to the brink of war, with troops massed on both sides of their shared border. It would be a terrible setback to five years of peace talks over Kashmir and normalization of relations if this were to happen again now. Presumably that was one of the goals of last week's assault.

Indian officials have said a captured Pakistani gunman acknowledged that Lashkar-e-Taiba was behind the Mumbai attacks. No evidence has emerged of Pakistani government support for the operation. Now Islamabad must provide intelligence, make arrests or otherwise help India identify the attackers and bring accomplices to justice.

To be sure, India is the aggrieved party here. Yet it also must refrain from escalating hostilities at home and in the region to satisfy victims' families and the country's political hard-liners. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government should be proactive in protecting the minority Muslim population against possible revenge attacks, particularly in this volatile period ahead of May 2009 parliamentary elections. India reportedly is considering severing diplomatic relations or launching a cross-border raid into Pakistan against suspected militant training camps. Either action would be a mistake. Communications must be increased, not cut off. President Bush is right to dispatch Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to try to help defuse tensions.

Rice may be on shaky ground arguing against Indian military raids on Pakistan when the United States routinely launches its own attacks on suspected militants camped along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, but press the case she must. Although Pakistan is unhappy about U.S. attacks in the tribal lands, they are not seen as a step toward a full-fledged war against Pakistan. The same could not be said of cross-border attacks by India. The Pakistani government would see them as a precursor to war and would feel compelled to respond.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



Christmas shopping for Saipan's techies

hen does scarcity mean abundance? Well, fortunately for Saipan's cash-strapped consumers, it means that the lack of "must-have" tech stuff this year is going to make Christmastime shopping a lot easier on the wallet.

But it's not all a windfall. It pulls the plug on my (more or less) annual Christmastime suggestion piece for the techies on your list.

Well, bah, humbug, I can't find one doggone high-tech doodad that's so great, or so useful, that every technophile has to have it. One wet blanket for my outlook is Microsoft Vista, which I am averse to, and which has made me determined to go retro-techno and keep my old stuff as healthy as possible.

And, given that I'm the tech-stooge for my family and pals (though I'm a rank amateur, and make no representations otherwise) my determination has been spread to those around me. For example, the wife and I are currently enjoying a vacation at Mom's house; while the smell of freshly baked cookies wafts through the house, as kith and kin enjoy holiday cheer, I'm relegated to fix-it chores for Mom's desktop computer.

I'd normally tell Mom to chuck the archaic beast into the nearest scrap heap so I don't to mess with it. But, well, it uses reliable and friendly old Windows XP. So the computer stays. As do the peripherals. And we can't see much use in buying new peripherals for it (and its pokey old USB 1.1 ports), so there's no tech-shopping glitter to be had here.

Moving from "must-have" to "sort of cool," storage technology continues its jaw-dropping acceleration. Flash drives can run 32-gigabytes now. Dinky little SD cards (common in cameras and such) can be also be had in that capacity, too. For anyone who I know, though, losing these things, not running out of capacity, is the big concern. Most of us opt for more units, and lower capacity, than the other way around.

But when it comes to storage for backing up your entire system, well, now we're in territory that is very interesting. I guess it's not must-have for everyone, but for me, the 2.5 inch external drives, which are computer-powered via the USB-port, are really nice.

MEGAbyte of Saipan is one vendor that carries such things, and they confirmed to me that they have these in stock. Given that so many people have their entire lives in digital format, ranging from By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



work, to photos, music, and correspondence, backing up all this stuff can be important.

Furthermore, with the large capacity external drives, you can (with the right software, or by hiring a technician) have an "image" made of your entire computer hard drive (including applications and the operating system), enabling you to resurrect your entire digital life in just a few hours when (not if, but when) your computer's hard drive toasts itself, which is especially common, given Saipan's sometimes spotty electrical service and its tropical climate.

This is, though, a pretty utilitarian investment, certainly not a fun tech-toy, and most people who take computing seriously will have already stocked themselves with backup devices.

So, while tech has certainly been advancing, I think it's also maturing, and a lot of folks I know are pretty well saturated with what they need already. For those who aren't saturated, the old favorites such as scanners, digital cameras, and MP3 players are great gifts, pretty much essential for modern life, and one of the few product realms that get cheaper and better all the time.

Looking back on some of the products I reviewed over the course of this year, high tech or otherwise, my favorite remains the Cabela's Outback Series Computer Attaché, which I wrote about on Aug. 15. It's overkill for strictly local duty in Saipan, but if you know anyone who travels a lot, this thing can't be beat. Mine is sitting with me in as I type these words on vacation. I haul it everywhere.

Anyway, to make up for the paucity of must-have tech toys this year, I'll post year-in-review thing on SaipanBlog.com, which will link to a few Saipan Tribune columns from 2008 that cover cool stuff.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

5 myths on the dangers of dining

ou made it through Thanksgiving dinner. No one contracted campylobacter from the turkey or E. coli from the creamed spinach. You even survived your mom's famous sweet potato casserole. But now you're eyeing the leftover stuffing in your fridge, feeling vaguely anxious. Is it safe to eat? Is anything safe to eat anymore? It can be so hard to keep up in this world of endless food scares. One minute we're alarmed by salmonella in jalapenos. Now it's melamine in milk from China. What next?

Endless fear of food isn't healthy. During the same period in the 1980s and '90s when the American health establishment was pushing a fear of fat (specifically anything delicious such as butter), the nation got fatter. When all food seems scary, a kind of apathy sets in. We fail to distinguish real frights from bogus ones. And we forget about a little thing called pleasure.

Our food hysteria has spawned numerous myths, most of which take us farther and farther away from the simple pleasures of a good meal.

1. The American food supply has never been so dangerous.

This is the least safe time in history for eating, right? Wrong. If you find it terrifying feeding your family now, try imagining yourself in Washington or New York from the 1850s to the 1900s. You try to buy vinegar; you are sold sulfuric acid. Your peas come greened with copper, giving you a dose of heavy metal poisoning with every bite. Spices are bulked with breadcrumbs or sawdust. Children's candies are colored with poisonous lead. Canned goods are laced with copper, tin and toxic preservatives. You buy "fresh country milk" to feed your baby, only to be sold disgusting swill milk from cows kept in stables attached to distilleries and fed on the alcoholic "mash" left over from liquor production. To disguise its thin bluish appearance, swindlers have thickened it with plaster of Paris and colored it yellow with molasses. There's a good chance your baby will die from drinking it, as a reported 8,000 infants in New York City did in 1857.

Or what about meat? If you think industrial meat production is scary today (and you're not wrong) you could at least be grateful that you're not living in the part of Chicago known as Packingtown in the early 1900s. Sausages contaminated with rat dung, spoiled hams disguised with chemicals and "potted chicken" that was re-

ally rotten pork were just a few of the scandals exposed by Upton Sinclair in his 1906 novel, "The Jungle."

OK, so our food supply today isn't perfect (there are still Twinkies). But it has been much worse.

2. Packaged food is safer.

When we feel scared, we want to put our faith in something. Lots of people put their faith in food that comes in packets. Some part of us knows that a SnackWells cookie isn't as healthy as a fresh carrot, but at least it can't be tampered with. Right?

Maybe it's nostalgia for reading the back of the cereal box as a child, but we feel oddly reassured by labels. Look! It's fortified with thiamine; it must be doing me some good.

In fact, packaged food is potentially less safe than unpackaged food. It passes through many hands before it reaches the consumer, increasing the odds that it has been tampered with at some point along the way. Labels are only reassuring when they tell the truth. Plenty of packaged food is mislabeled—as is the case with the formula scandal in China, which has affected well-known brands. Besides, the healthiest and safest food—produce bought loose from a farm stand or food that you have grown, raised or cooked yourself—needs no label or package at all.

3. People who buy organic food don't have to worry.

Curb the smugness. Not all "organic" food is created alike. Organic beef is not necessarily from grass-fed cows. Organic apples may still contain pesticide traces. In June 2007, the USDA approved 38 non-organic ingredients for inclusion in "organic" products, including 19 colorings, hot dog casings and a bulking agent. Not exactly purer than pure.

Plus, as with any other culinary fetish, "organic" is a target for swindlers. There have been numerous cases of organic food fraud in recent years—mass-produced eggs passed off as "organic free-range," for example. Similarly, our fixation with EVOO—as Rachael Ray has dubbed extra virgin olive oil—has fueled a rise in olive oil fraud. Unscrupulous Italian dealers take low-grade soy oil or "lamp oil" made from spoiled olives and color it green with chlorophyll so that it resembles the finest extra-virgin. So that "Mediterranean diet" of yours doesn't necessarily keep you safe.

By BEE WILSON

Special to The Washington Post

Wilson is the author of Swindled: The Dark History of Food Fraud.



4. Science makes our food less healthy.

We like to think that scientists are the food bad guys—plotting to fill our diets with unnatural additives. Actually, we owe a huge amount to the quiet behind-the-scenes work of scientists—the food detectives who do their bit to uncover food fraud. Swindles are increasingly sophisticated and it takes complex forensic science to expose them. In recent years, scientists have used DNA fingerprinting to uncover fake Basmati rice, isotopes to detect "honey" that was really corn syrup and spectroscopy to reveal fraudulent orange juice (made by bulking out real juice with pulp wash, a liquid made from exhausted orange pulp), to name just a few examples.

5. Eating safely comes down to individual behavior.

If we all take personal responsibility for washing fruits and vegetables and cooking poultry until it's piping hot, surely we'll be safe?

Not so. Food safety is largely a question of politics. The Chinese dairy scandal demonstrated what happens when a government fails catastrophically at regulating its food supply. You get a scenario—as in American cities in the 1850s—where it becomes almost impossible to make safe food choices. Sure, the FDA should do a whole lot more to oversee the American diet. Don't forget, though, that it does at least protect us from this kind of endemic poisoning. We may not be out of Sinclair's "Jungle" yet. But stop being scared for a moment, and you can still cook yourself a good supper tonight. We haven't always been so lucky.

And still take the time, of course, to wash your own fruits and vegetables.

Letter to the Editor

No basis in fact

William Strand wrote with obvious emotion and distaste in reference to the medical screening currently taking place. No research on his part appeared to be part of his letter. In other words he jumped to conclusions and on the "let's bash the indigenous people" bandwagon. Is racebased medical screening bad? Different races and the sexes have different medical issues. Did you know that white males are six times more likely to develop testicular cancer than black males? Many medical issues are prevalent in some races and not in others.

How about sex-based screening? One woman in three and one man in 12 is affected by osteoporosis in the UK. The *American Journal of Gastroenterology* proposed that we should consider customization of screening of colorectal cancer based on gender, race, and ethnicity.

Then there is the issue of funding for the screening—and some funding is tied to who the screening is supposed to assist—which is the norm in the United States. I do not know who the screening was paid for by, nor do I know if the screened medical issues are more prevalent in Northern Marianas natives than other races, and certainly William Strand does not either, which is the bigger problem. His obvious disgust toward indigenous Northern Marianas natives has no basis in fact—which seems to be the disturbing norm these days.

William "Bamboo" McCue Wellington, Florida

Not the enemy but the cure

John DelRosario, Secretary

Department of Public Lands

As the Secretary of Department of Public lands you are held to a high standard of fiduciary standard in the management and dispositions of our public lands.

Serious concerns have arisen pertaining to alleged internal issuances of homesteads, short conveyances, questionable public land leases, and land compensations or cash settlements. I do not believe anything of this nature is a laughing matter. Numerous employees had been forced to resign or terminated due to issues we have uncovered pertaining to such transactions. The problem with this internal employee issue is that the homestead documents they possess have your signature, which tells us that you authorized such activities. You continue to address that our findings are baseless and without merits but the documents we have on hand tell differently.

Homestead applicants on the waiting list since the 1990s have not gotten their homesteads but employees, constituents, relatives, friends, and so forth had been given special privileges, prioritization and issuances of homestead properties with applications as early as 2000 to the present, completely bypassing those applicants who have waited patiently for many years and are still waiting.

Converted ponding basin into homesteads at San Vicente Stanford Area: Two houses had been erected on these homesteads, issued to close constituents of the administration involving employees who you either terminated or forced to resign. Status? Homes were completed.

Short Conveyances: Issuances of short conveyance claims had been entertained and authorized by you simply for the relationships involved.

This matter is also a direct conflict of interest.

Land Settlements: Earlier, this administration placed a moratorium on all activities concerning homesteads and land settlements. However, the land settlement payments you had authorized and paid out were for immediate relatives, Cabinet members and a former congressman from the 15th Legislature. This is a matter of public records and are accessible to anyone

MPLA investigations: A letter received from the former lead investigator notified us that no case or settlement had been settled or compromised at the federal courts but we uncovered that you had settled a case with a former MPLA employee listed on the OPA report you personally hand delivered to Taotao Tano.

Bottom line is DPL lost this case in federal court but the former MPLA employee was placed under a gag order. Again, the documents retrieved were public records accessible to anyone.

Senate oversight hearing: Three times the hearing was postponed and the excuse was that they are still gathering the documents requested by chairman of the committee, Sen. Jude Hofschnieder. Today, the oversight hearing had been cancelled until further notice. Taotao Tano states that it is all a cover-up.

Now do you wish to continue calling our investigation baseless or a laughing matter? Is this how a person who proudly states that he was once a Student President and now a Secretary of DPL, trained or educated as a Christian, to be doing? I am not the enemy but rather the cure, Mr. DelRosario.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano

A year after

The organizers of the "Unity March" that was held last Dec. 7, 2007, is inviting all those who participated in the most memorable march that has ever occurred in the history of the Northern Mariana Islands to its first anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, at 4pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Kilili Beach, Beach Road, Susupe.

Let us stand up and join our hands together once again in our quest for equal rights and equal protection as a people and a lawabiding citizens within the community.

The Unity Group that organized the Unity March (you know who they are) is encouraging all participants—foreign workers, island residents, and U.S citizens who walked together to express a common goal, vision and sentiment—including all who belong to the "silent majority" to attend the first anniversary (food and drinks are potluck) and remember the event that in one way or another brought us together in the spirit of love and unity. Indeed our unambiguous vision for the retention of H.B 3079 (grandfathering provision for long-term foreign workers and opposing

the implementation of some provisions under P.L 15-108) during that year is now bittersweet as foreign nationals silently leave the island one at a time. Your attendance is highly expected as we celebrate the success of more than a thousand marchers that started at 5pm and ended almost 10pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

See you there.

Carlito J. Marquez Puerto Rico, Saipan **12** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam,

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲ 87° **▼77°**



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼77°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

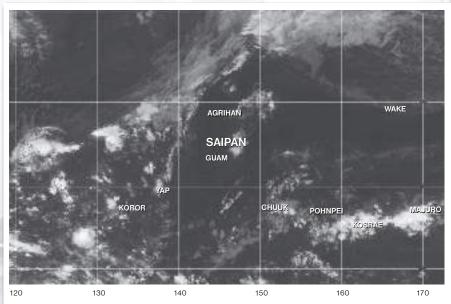
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	≜ 88 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 82 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 72	▼ 61
Beijing	Cold	▲ 21	▼10
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 62	▼51
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	≜ 80	▼ 69
London	Cloudy	▲ 46	₹41
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 72	▼ 52
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	≜ 82	₹73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	≜ 80	▼ 59
Miami	Cloudy	▲ 77	▼ 63
New York	Cloudy	▲ 36	₹26
Osaka	Showers	4 4	₹29
Paris	Showers	▲ 49	▼ 40
Pusan	Cloudy	▲39	₹22
Rome	Rain	▲ 54	▼ 48
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 45	▼33
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64	₹47
Seoul	Flurries	▲ 18	▼ 4
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 58	▼ 36
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	4 0	₹26

Saipan Harbor 6:16AM Today Low Tide: 0.2 Feet 1:38PM Today High Tide: 1.8 Feet 8:03PM Today Low Tide: 1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N154E to 18N135E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Extensive cloudiness, rain and embedded heavier showers are found along and up to 300 miles north of this boundary. A weakening cold front arcs westward from 20N180E to 17N170E to 18N166E then continues northwestward as a warm front to beyond 25N at 156E. Extensive cloud-cover and stratiform rain can be found along and up to 150 miles to the north of the fronts. A surface trough extends northeastward from 9N130E to 17N135E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 18N137E to 16N130E to 10N130E to 8N133E to 14N137E back to 18N137E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands between 4N and 8N from 147E to 180.

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			
Today	6:29AM	5:46 PM	
Saturday	6:30AM	5:46 PM	
Sunday	6:31AM	5:46 PM	
Monday	6:31AM	5:47 PM	
Tuesday	6:32AM	5:47 PM	

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	11:50AM	11:55 PM
Saturday	12:26PM	
Sunday	1:03PM	12:44 AM
Monday	1:42PM	1:36 AM
Tuesday	2:26PM	2:32 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday. Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, grant-
- of awards, team-building exercise other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily
- focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRÁVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit

NMI CRIME

STOPPERS

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

Anonymous tips can now be submitted

■ *11 on any PTI cellular phone

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Log on to the internet at

up to 10 pictures for consideration **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

through the following:

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and
- private companies.
- Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number. Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or
- jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contri 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES Saipan-Rota

CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily 7:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm CO9599 9:30pm

10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2.3.4.5.6.7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Manila

5:50pm 9:10pm 3.5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5.6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2.3.4.5.6.7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3.5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines: NW: Northwest: OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	iency	Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	iency
Guam-	Rota			FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Dail
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Dail
Rota-S	aipan			FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Dail
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Dail
Saipan	-Rota			FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Dail
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Dail
Rota-G	uam			FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Dail
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-	Saipai	ı w/	

connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102 7:05am 7:15am Daily 7:50am 8:00am FRE 106* 8:20am 8:30am Daily FRE 108* 9:00am 9:10am Daily FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am FRE 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily FRE 118 2:50pm 3:00pm FRE 120* 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily FRE 122* 5:00pm 5:10pm Daily FRE 124 6:05pm 6:15pm Daily 6:20pm 6:30pm

Saipan-Tinian

FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am

Guam-Rota

Rota-Saipan

Saipan-Rota

Rota-Guam

FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm

FRE 300

FRE 400

FRE 400

Daily 8:40am 8:50am

Daily FRE 107 Daily FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily 10:45am 10:55am Daily FRE 126 FRE 111*

4:00pm 4:30pm Daily

6:00pm 6:30pm

6:45pm 7:15pm

Daily

Daily

Daily

Area writers join worldwide novel writing challenge

Fifty writers from around Micronesia signed up online at the National Novel Writing Month website, agreeing to write their novels of 50,000 words during the 30 days of November 2008. This was the tenth anniversary year for NaNoWriMo, as it is better known and, for the first time in its history, it included a region for Micronesia.

"I applied to be the Municipal Liaison for our new region," said Jane Mack, who blogs under the name Saipanwriter, "because I've had so much fun with NaNoWriMo I wanted to spread the word." Mack participated in NaNoWriMo in 2005, 2006, and 2007, winning each year, before joining the challenge this year.

Mack is not alone in her enthusiasm for NaNoWriMo. From its humble beginnings in 1999, when just 21 writers in the San Francisco Bay Area joined Chris Baty for the first NaNoWrimo, the seat-of-yourpants writing group has grown to 119,301 writers from around the world. Of these, 21,683 crossed the 2008 winner's line. Altogether, NaNoWriMo writers around the world wrote 1,643,343,993 words of fiction in November this year!

So, how did the new region for Micronesia do in the novelwriting challenge? According to Mack, 25 area writers affiliated with the region. "I'm thrilled with the participation," Mack said. "Last year, there were only three of us writing on Saipan, and a few more scattered around in Guam, Palau and the Marshall Islands."

Of the 25 area writers who affiliated with the region, only 12 set their home regions to Micronesia. "The other 13 affiliated writers just forgot to set their home regions," Mack said. "Their profiles show that they are all living on Saipan."

Besides those who officially affiliated with the Micronesia region on the NaNoWriMo site, there were another 25 writers on Saipan, in Palau, and Guam who signed up for the novel-writing challenge. This year, Guam had five participants, Palau had two, and the Marshall Islands had one who signed up. A total of 42 writers from Saipan signed up for the challenge.

"It's easy to sign up," said Mack. "Much harder is actually writing. I'm proud of our new region because nine of the 12 who set Micronesia as their home region posted word counts. That means they actually wrote during the month. And among all those living in the area, we had 14 who posted word counts and four winners—three on Saipan and one in Guam."

Those winners include Joe Race, who has self-published some of his earlier novels. Race passed the finish line on Nov. 29. Race had to overcome hurdles that included the Thanksgiving holidays and the lures of daily life. "You have to stay tuned in," Race said, "or you find yourself being distracted, like sorting out your sock drawer, vacuuming your car, or doing early Christmas shopping."

Race wrote 50,556 words on a Christmas novel, which were added to the Micronesia region's total. The official regional word count is based on the word counts of only those who set their home region as Micronesia, according to Mack.

For the Micronesia region, the official total written was 191,879 words, which was better than 35 other regions. But the actual word count for all those who participated and who live in the Micronesia area is more than quarter million words, according to Mack.

"I wish we had an accurate count," Mack said. "I wish everyone in the region had set their home region to Micronesia. But the real value is just knowing

that we had a lot of people writing a lot of words in November, plunging into fictional waters and creating new stories."

What accounted for the unusually high turnout of writers this year, according to Mack, was the participation of students. "There were students at both Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High school writing novels.

Some of those students turned in impressive word counts," Mack said.

The only Saipan student known to have validated a novel with 50,000 words was Merey Len Denora of Saipan Southern High School. A 16-year-old Guam student, writing under the name of "PsychOSch1z," also validated a novel with 61,723 words. Other prolific students included Tiannah Diaz of SSHS,

> who logged 26,357 words, and DaJung. Pak of MHS, who logged 18,000 words.

> Novel-writing isn't only for older students, though, according to Mack. Fourth grade students at Kagman

Elementary School participated in the Young Writers Program, a version of NaNoWriMo specifically designed for younger students. Unlike the NaNoWriMo program that sets the goal of 50,000 words to win, the YWP allows the student writers to set their own goals.

"Some of my fourth graders reached their desired word counts, for this program—5,000 words for the Special Education students, 8,000 words for my middle group, and 10,000 for my advanced group," Kagman fourth-grade teacher Angie Wheat said. "Most had a great time doing this! They want to try again next time, but up their word counts, now that they know what is expected!"

Mack encourages teachers to bring NaNoWriMo into the classroom because the fast pace of NaNoWriMo is a great way to build writing fluency. "There's a great freedom in writing to build word count rather than trying to produce a

finished product," Mack said.

Joe Race echoed her sentiments. "Every writer should write a novel under the gun," Race said. "It keeps you focused and committed, and very determined. It's a motivator to see your progress every day on the website, and also to know that so many other writers are working away at the same time."

Mack, who also crossed the finish line, says that once you've tried the crash course of writing a novel, it's hard to write any other way. Next on the writing agenda for many of these crash novelists-Script Frenzy. They'll be writing 100page plays and movie scripts in April. You can find out more at www.scriptfrenzy.org. (PR)



Rudweiser

Manta Band to perform with MCS Theatre Club

The award winning Manta Band In March this year, the Manta from Saipan Southern High School will present a special guest performance at the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club's production of It's a Wonderful *Life* this weekend. The band, which has been preparing for several months now, will perform an overture of sorts of music to be featured in It's a Wonderful Life, as well some popular Disney and Christmas tunes.

"This is great," said Galvin Deleon Guerrero, principal of Mount Carmel and advisor for the school's Theatre Club. "We've wanted to work with the Manta Band for some time now. This is a good first step."

Under the leadership of conductor Will DeWitt, the Manta Band has been making a name for itself as one of the best performance bands in the region.

Band took the Gold Medal in the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam. Soon afterwards, members of the Manta Band represented the Northern Marianas in the Beijing Summer Olympics.

It's a Wonderful Life will run tonight and tomorrow night at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall. For tonight's dinner show, doors will open at 5:30pm, followed by a buffet dinner at 6pm and the performance at 7pm. Doors will open for tomorrow's show at 6pm, with performance at 7pm. Tonight's tickets are \$35 per person. Tomorrow's tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mtcarmel-edu.net or www.mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free Quit Smoking & **Chewing Program at** SDA

The SDA Clinic is offering a free quit smoking program that is open to all! It will be held on Dec. 10 and Dec. 11, at 6:30pm each evening.

Now's your chance to start the New Year off right! Call 234-6323 to sign up. Do it for yourself and for your family. (PR)

Chacha to hold Open House

Chacha Ocean View Jr. High

School will be having an Open House on Thursday Dec. 11, 2008, from 4pm to 6pm to distribute the 2nd Quarter Student Mid-Progress Reports. This day will be full day for students; they will be released at 2:40pm. Should you have any questions

and/ or comments, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. (PR)

Sr. Remedios welcomes new board members

The board of directors of Sister Remedios School were treated to an appreciation luncheon in early November to thank retiring members: Jerome Ierome, Jeffery Warfield and Joseph Ada Jr., and to welcome new members: Lorraine Babauta, who replaced Bernadita Seman as president, Elaine Dela Gruz as vice president, and Dora Miura as secretary. It was also to welcome back and to thank those members who are continuing their services with the board: Bernadita Seman, former president and now treasurer; John Blanco, Galvin Guerrero and John Oliver Gonzales. "Not everyone could make it to the luncheon, but for those who did, it was a great treat. Thank you very much Ms. Bennett for the treat!" (PR)

FOA presents **Christmas musical**

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, a musical adaptation of Miracle on 34th Street, is being presented by the Friends of the Arts.

Showtime is on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road. There will be a Saturday matinee at 3pm, Dec. 13, followed by a 7pm evening performance. On Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3pm, there will be a matinee performance for the benefit of Guma Esperanza.

Tickets are \$10 for FOA members, \$12 for non-members and students are \$5. Your ticket for the Sunday matinee is a donation of money or canned

goods. Donations for Guma Esperanza will be accepted at all performances.

Tickets are available from all members of the cast, FOA board members or at the door of the Multi-Purpose Center on the performance dates. (PR)

English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English Placement Test on the following dates:

Dec. 10 5pm - 8pm Room D-1 9am - 12pm Dec. 11 Room D-1 Jan. 8 5pm - 8pm Room D-1 Jan. 9 1pm - 4pm Room D-1 Jan. 14 9am - 12pm Room A-6

No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

For more information, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 ext.1733 or 1242. **(PR)**

Vendors sought for 'Puengin Inetnon'

The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for interested vendors to sell food, clothing, games, and other types of family oriented entertainment for "Puengin Inetnon."

"Puengin Inetnon" Chamorro for "a night of gathering." It will be similar to the Thursday Night Street Market in Garapan except that it will be held every government payday Friday at the Kagman Community Center.

Interested vendors, volunteers, and performers may call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. (PR)

Free health screening for OFWs

The last quarter "Free Health Screening for OFWs" will be held this Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza Building. Registration is at 7am and the actual conduct of the activity will start at 8am until noon.

The medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision checkups. Those availing of blood sugar level checkup must refrain from taking solid and liquid food from midnight to actual testing.

This quarterly conduct of health mission/wellness program by the Philippine Consulate General, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is being done in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team and Hardt Eye Clinic. (PR)

Commerce holds survey of FAS citizens

The Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Interior, will be conducting a Compact of Free Association survey beginning this Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, on Saipan.

The survey, called the "2008 Survey of Compact Of Free Association (COFA) Migrants," is intended to determine the latest total of Freely Associated State citizens who currently reside in the CNMI, which will be used to determine future Compact Impact funding for the CNMI.

The public is asked to assist the COFA enumerators who may visit their homes in the upcoming weeks. (PR)

Red Cross Health & Safety Trainings

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2008:

- First Aid: Dec. 16, Tuesday, 6pm - 10pm
- Infant & Child CPR: Dec. 20, Saturday, 8am – 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$30 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (ARC)

CAO seeks vendors for cultural show

The Carolinian Affairs Office. in cooperation with the Refaluwasch Genealogy Society, is seeking proposals for the development and operation of a cultural show to include Carolinian culture at the Carolinian utt in Garapan. Interested tourism vendors are invited to attend a meeting on Dec. 5, 2008 at 3pm at CAO to discuss requirements. For more information, contact CAO at (670) 234-6385.

Math placement test set

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting the Math Placement Tests on the following dates:

Jan. 6 10am - 12pm Room: D-1 5pm - 7pm Room: D-1 Jan. 8 10am - 12pm

See MATH on Next Page

The 1st Comprehensive Assessment of the CNMI Economy since 1999!

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us as Malcolm McPhee discusses the findings of the report:

Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Thursday, December 11, 2008

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Saipan World Resort - Royal Taga Ballroom

\$15 per person, inclusive of buffet lunch

Reservations are required and must be made no later than 12:00 noon, Tuesday, December 09.

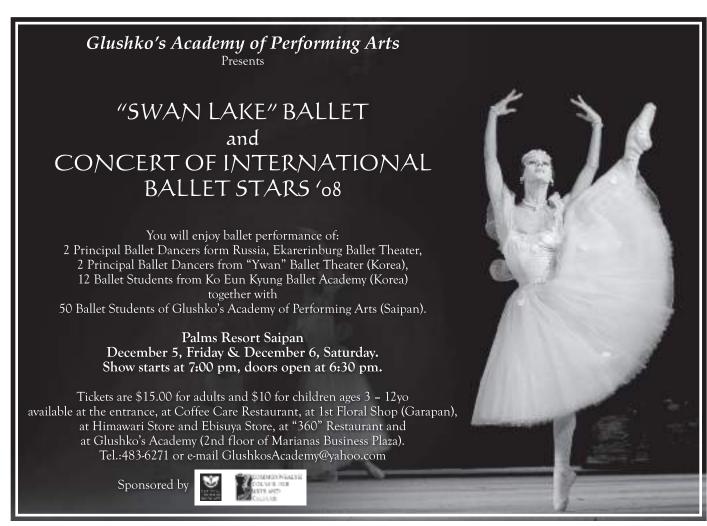
Call (233-7150) or email (coordinator@saipanchamber.com) the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office to make reservations.

This presentation is made possible by the support of First Hawaiian Bank and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.









Mileage: 56882

Sobriety checkpoints set

The Saipan Department of Public Safety announced yesterday that the Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this weekend.

The first checkpoint will be held today, Dec. 5, 2008, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, in front of Sherwin Williams on the northbound outer lane. This operation will commence at approximately 8pm and will terminate at about 9:15pm.

The second checkpoint will take place along Beach Road Chalan Kanoa northbound outer lane in front of Carmen Safe-This will commence at about 12:30am of Dec. 6, 2008, and will end at about 1:45am.

Tomorrow, Dec. 6, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road, Chalan Laulau by B&R Auto Shop intersection on the southbound lane. This will begin around 7:30pm until around 9:45pm.

The second checkpoint will be conducted on the same date on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, northbound outer lane in front of Carmen Safeway. This will commence at about 1:30am on Dec. 7, 2008, and will terminate at about 2:45am.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. (DPS)

Pacific Human Rights Awards to honor individuals this year

To mark the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, four courageous individuals from across the Pacific Island region will be honored tonight with this year's RRRT/SPC Pacific Human Rights Award.

Winners will share a total of F\$7,500 in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the field of human rights.

The Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community said the awards ceremony will begin at 5:30pm at the Alliance Française (14 McGregor Road)

RRRT/SPC Program Manager Sandra Bernklau said the 2008 RRRT/SPC Pacific Human Rights Award is unique in that it honors individual accomplishments.

"For nearly 10 years now we've presented awards to Pacific Island organizations that have shown extraordinary dedication to promoting and protecting the rights of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups across the region," Bernklau said.

"This year, to commemorate 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we've decided to honor those Pacific Islanders who have selflessly sacrificed so much over the years to build a region that respects the

MATH

From Page 1

Jan. 13

Jan. 15

dignity and rights of everyone."

Among a number of criteria, nominees must have demonstrated strong commitment to social justice, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as a high degree of commitment in their personal lives and actions to the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Adopted on Dec. 10, 1948, the declaration was the first international recognition that all human beings have fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as being a global commitment to universal dignity and justice.

RRRT provides human rights training, technical support, and policy and advocacy services tailored specifically for the Pacific region. RRRT is an SPC program under the Social Resources Division.

The RRRT Pacific Human Rights Awards were born in 1998 when RRRT was awarded UNICEF's prestigious Maurice Pate Award for its work in advancing the rights of women and children in the Pacific.

This year's event is supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), Meridian Consulting and Star Printery Ltd. (SPC)

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1	2X4X20 - \$7.20 2X6X12 - \$6.90	2X4X20 - \$10.70 2X6X12 - \$10.20
1	2X4X18 - \$6.70	2X4X18 - \$9.70
	2X4X16 - \$6.00	2X4X16 - \$8.70
	2X4X14 - \$5.30	2X4X12 - \$0.70
	2X4X12 - \$4.60	2X4X12 - \$6.70
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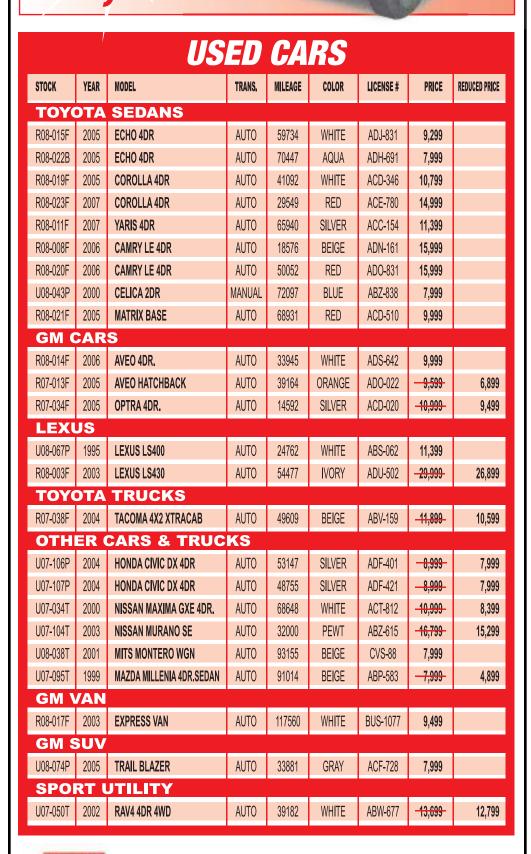
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Room: A-9

Room: A-9

5pm - 7pm

5pm - 7pm

10am - 12pm

listed above. Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid ID (Drivers License, passport or School ID), pens or pencils and a calcu-

lator (optional). There is a \$25

fee for the Math Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier Window at the Finance Office, located in Building N. Applicants will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee). NMC students are not allowed to take the placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the math

placement test. Call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1212 for more information. *(NMC)*

MVA meeting to address status of tourist industry

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its next general membership meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, at Saipan

the meeting will be a presentation titled "Insights and Update on Japan and Korea Markets"

World Resort. The highlight of by Michael Merner, chair of **AVIAREPS Marketing Garden** and MVA Japan and Korea rep-

TAX CREDIT DONATION

Joey Garrido, resident manager of Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., presents a \$2.500 check to Cora Casabella, right, Grace Christian Academy Business Administrator, and GCA principal Faith Dela Rosa, center, as an educational tax credit donation. GCA extends its grateful appreciation to the company for its generous donation.



ON THE NET www.mvmarianas.com

CONTACT INFO

John Palacios Tel: 670-664-3200 E-mail: jpalacios@mymarianas.com

The MVA general membership meeting is held bi-annually to update members, legislators, government officials, and the public about the status of tourism in the CNMI. This month's meeting will also include an update on the China and Russia markets, committee reports on destination enhancement and niche marketing, and recognition of the 2008 Top Contributor.

The meeting will be held at Taga Hall from 10am to 12pm,

followed by lunch. The cost of the membership meeting and lunch is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-MVA members.

The meeting also provides an ideal opportunity for people to join MVA and gain the membership advantage.

"Tourism is everybody's business," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Our members participate in city seminars and conferences in major trade shows. Members also receive exposure thorough promotional collaterals at major events, promotional activities, and tie-ins with leading trade publications in the Pacific and Asia market."

MVA keeps its members informed of industry trends with regular visitor statistics, indepth analyses of visitor profiles, a monthly e-newsletter with activity updates, and the annual report. Members can include their activities in the MVA Calendar of Events.

By joining MVA, businesses that rely on tourism can strengthen communication with CNMI government agencies and leverage their ability to promote Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to existing and potential tourist markets.

MVA membership is \$100 per year. Membership applications are available under the MVA Members section at www. mymarianas.com. Membership inquiries and membership meeting reservations may be made by contacting John Palacios no later than noon on Dec. 9, 2008 at 670-664-3200 or jpalacios@ mymarianas.com. (MVA)





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ISLAND PARADE

The Manta Ray Battalion and other elementary schools participated in the First Lady's Vision Island Christmas Lighting, Healthy Living Parade. The march was held from 5pm to 6pm. The parade started at American Memorial Park then proceeded to the Carolinian Village. The Manta Rav Battalion led the way, dazzling the tourist with its cadence. Some 58 motivated cadets sounded off during the entire parade. The Manta Ray Battalion also want to thank the First Lady Foundation for donating \$300 to the JROTC Cadet Fund.

Be Active: Let's Step Up and **Move to fight Diabetes!**

The Benefits of Being More Active:

- Lowers and controls blood glucose
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- Improved sense of well-being







Remember, you CAN prevent diabetes.

If you have diabetes you are at high risk of developing a foot wound that could possibly lead to an AMPUTATION.



GCA puts on free Christmas production tonight

REPORTER

Students at Grace Christian Academy will perform their annual seasonal production Lost Christmas tonight.

The approximately200 students in the production have been preparing for about two months, said stage manager Jo Hanna Cabrera, a junior at GCA.

It was hectic at first, she said, but as the students got into their roles it all came together.

The students have been staying after school to practice for the production, which will be held free for the community tonight at 6pm

Cabrera, who has been participating in Lost Christmas since she was in junior high, said her time as stage manager has allowed her to help other students and use her leadership skills.

Perfecting the dances have been hard and tiring, but all the students were listening well, said Ken Orejola, the choreographer for the production and a GCA student. This year has been stressful, he said, but worth it.

"It's been fun," he added.



Students at Grace Christian Academy practice for tonight's Lost Christmas production. The annual performance will be held at 6pm tonight and is free to the public.

Science academy hosts research presentations, meeting at AMP

The Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management held its 10th public meeting and hosted five presentations at the American Memorial Park auditorium on Nov. 25, 2008

About 85 people were in attendance, the group's largest attendance to date, and most stayed until the end of each of the five talks. The meeting lasted from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

The audience included island and regional scientists, resource managers, and science instructors, and also secondary and postsecondary science students.

Each presentation was followed by a topic-focused discussion with a question-andanswer segment.

Haldre Rogers, a graduate student at the Biology Department of the University of Washington, held a presentation on forest biology. She is conducting research on the islands as part of her doctoral program. The nature of this research involves comparing the forests of Guam with the forests of the CNMI islands, with the main focus being to evaluate the dispersal patterns of forest trees' seeds within each island. The fact that the island of Guam's forests suffer from the almost complete lack of birds due to predation by the invasive Brown Tree Snake, Boiga irregularis, is hypothesized to eventually cause and result in a change in island forest community structure and species biodiversity.

Dr. Roger Goodwill's presentation focused on migratory species biology. Dr. Goodwill, Department of Biology chairperson at the Brigham Young University in Hawaii, presented findings from his team's research on the Pacific Golden Plover. Dr. Goodwill reported that his team's studies have shown that flocks of Pacific Golden Plovers traveling along the flyways of the Pacific are now known to stop over in Japan. This is new information to science in that it was previously theorized that the Western Pacific birds traveled exclusively to the tundra area of Siberia, Russia.

Kimberly Vaillancourt, a science instructor at Hopwood Junior High School, had a presentation on Education and a Current Resource Management Issue. Vaillancourt and six of her students presented on their use of debate as method of learning about science and resource management issues within a classroom setting.

Dr. Dilip Nandwani of NMC CREES, talked about the application of new and improved plant varieties to the CNMI islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Dr. Nandwani discussed the common problem of constantly reusing the same parent plant materials, particularly from the common local crops of taro, sweet potato, and both eating and cooking banana.

The last presenter, Dr. Gary Denton, director and environmental toxicologist at the University of Guam's Water & Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific, presented his team's findings on the principle source of mercury, a toxic heavy metal, impacting fish between Micro Beach and Hafa Adai Beach in Garapan. The team's investigation tracked the contamination back along a drainage channel to an old incinerator site at the CHC public hospital.

At the meeting, Academy leaders also announced the group's name change from "Western Pacific Academy of Science and Environmental Management." Reasons for the change include seeking a greater involvement among island science educators and an effort to include more participation from the Asia-Pacific region's science, education, and environmental management community.

The group is certified as a nonprofit, nongovernmental corporate entity and is in the process of seeking federal recognition as a "501C/3" status organization. APASEEM's officers include Andre Kozij, treasurer; Kimberly Vaillancourt, secretary; Larry Oney, vice president; and John Furey, president. (PR)



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18 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pacific

New dengue strain emerges in New Caledonia

Type 4 dengue presents new danger

NOUMÉA, New Caledonia (Oceania Flash/PIR)—The number of reported cases of serotype four dengue fever, a form of the virus that was until recently not prevalent in New

recently not prevalent in New Caledonia, continues to rise in the northern part of the main island of the French Pacific ter-

ritory, local media report.

A first type four case (found on a person who had not been traveling recently in the Pacific region, where Fiji is particularly affected with well over two thousand cases) was detected last month, prompting local health authorities to express concern at a combined epidemic of the already prevalent serotype 1 of the mosqui-

to-borne disease.

The other seven, more recent cases, were also found in the past few days on persons living in the suburbs of the Northern town of Koné, near the Melanesian village of Baco.

They include three confirmed cases of the serotype four while the serotype of the other four remains to be analyzed.

Health authorities said this was a clear sign that the disease was now beginning to spread on a local, not imported basis.

Over one thousand cases of the serotype 1 dengue fever have already been diagnosed in New Caledonia since the beginning of this year.

Pasteur Institute virologist

Dr. Aurélie Guigon warned last month the main issue at stake was that although people in New Caledonia were now relatively immune to the Type 1 dengue fever, which has been present constantly in the French Pacific territory, it was not the case for Type 4.

"If the Type 4 was to propagate, it would affect more people compared to the Type 1," she stressed. "The problem is that this virus has not circulated in New Caledonia, in epidemic mode, for about 30 years."

Since last month, New Caledonia has also stepped up its vigilance system with a systematic screening of all passengers arriving at the Nouméa-La Tontouta international airport.

The key tool is a state of the art heat-sensitive camera filming all arriving passengers, with a special focus on flights coming from neigh-

boring countries currently affected by type four dengue fever epidemics.

The heat-sensitive camera, based on infrared technology, is monitoring all passengers in order to determine unusually high body temperature.

When the remotely detected

temperature exceeds 37.5 degrees Celsius, the arriving passenger, whether a local resident or a visiting foreigner, is then approached by health agents.

He is then asked to fill in a form that will provide for a free dengue blood test at the local Pasteur medical institute.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Samoa looks for way to support major employer

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR) --- Acabinet-appointed committee in Samoa trying to assist Yazaki Samoa says no financial assistance is being directly offered to the company. The company, Yasaki Eds Samoa, manufactures wire harnesses for vehicles. The company has said it will have to lay off 80 employees by the end of the month after customers in Australia reduced their orders. The CEO of Inland Revenue, Silafau Paul Meredith, who is on the committee, says they are looking assistance in ways such as reducing value added goods and services tax and other costs to help the company out. He says Samoa greatly benefits from the Japanese-owned company as it is the biggest private sector employer in the country.

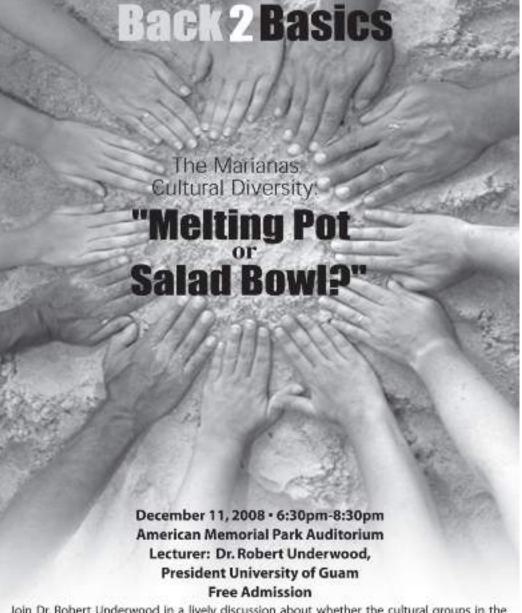
Fisheries commission wants tuna catch reduced

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is proposing that the catch of yellowfin tuna in the region be cut by 30 percent. The Kyodo news agency reports the proposal by what is more normally known as the Tuna Commission

would have a major impact on Japanese fishermen and consumers as Japan leads the world in catching the fish. The Commission is to hold its annual meeting in South Korea next week. It says the species is subject to overfishing and will be placed in dire straits in the near future unless changes in quotas are made. The Commission wants immediate reductions in catches using seines and is seeking an agreement on setting a three-month moratorium on fishing and controlling the use of devices to draw fish.

Tonga lawmakers poised for pay raise

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—The new single parliamentary salaries of Tonga's Cabinet Ministers have not been put into place, but when they are there will be no increase on the budgeted amount, Tonga's Minister of Finance Afu'alo Matoto told Matangi Tonga on Nov. 28. Although the Privy Council had approved a recommendation for Cabinet Ministers to receive only one salary, and not two, as had been the practice during the past few years, he said the Ministry of Finance were still working on the implementation of the new salaries of Cabinet Ministers.



Join Dr. Robert Underwood in a lively discussion about whether the cultural groups in the Marianas are truly melting together (as has been boasted through various marketing and promotional literature) or if they exist separately and within their own subgroups, like the ingredients of a salad bowl.

The community and representatives of local cultural associations and organizations are invited to share their perspectives and experiences after the lecture. Student cultural groups from the local high schools are also invited to participate to share their views.

The event will be streamed live on the internet at www.wethepeoplecnmi.com. For more information please email taroleafgroup@gmail.com.

"From Many, One: Exploring Democracy in a Multi-Cultural Commonwealth"



This project was supported by funding received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and amorded by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.*



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 19 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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SPAM \$1.89

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(any size/scent) receive an entry form for your chance to win!

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Beach Cliff

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79¢

Kikkoman

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\$3.79

Morton Salt

1.6 lts.

\$6.95 /lb Tilapia (99¢ /lb

Hormel Vienna

Hormel Black

Laber 12 oz.

Sausage 5 oz.

59¢

Beef Patties \$3.99 /2.5 lbs Green Mussels

Del Monte

15.25 oz

69¢

Limit 8

Sugar 2 Kilos

Whole Corn

\$4.95 /2 lbs **Dungenes Crab** \$5.99

Carnation

Evap. Milk

99¢

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Kelogs Triple

Ground Beef \$16.95 /10 lbs.

Vega Shrimps \$4.99 /1 lb Limit 1 Box

Beef Rib Finger \$2,69 Ab

U.S. Medium Eggs

\$1.89 /1 doz

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Miller Beef Franks

S14.95 /5 lbs **Portuguese Sausage**

S1.99

Bar-S Bacon

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1 Gal. \$9.50

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Coffemate 35.3 oz. \$5.99 Chamorro Punch 1 Gallon \$8.99 Hormel with

99¢



Beans 15 oz.

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\$1.39 One Whole

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\$1.49 \$7.99 Campbells Chicken **Noodles** 10.75 g 99¢

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Ajinomoto 99¢ \$5.95

\$1.59 Seoksu Water Per Case (500 ml.)

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LIMIT 1 CAN

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Best Food Mayo 1 Gal. \$11.95 Shasta Soda

Per Case (Warm Only) \$11.50

Garlic DDDC

\$1.25 /lb

59¢ /lb.

79¢ //b.

Celery

99¢ /lb.

Banana

Honey Dew

99¢ /lb.

Orange Cello

\$3.50 /4 lbs.

20 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Automakers plead with Congress; votes lacking

WASHINGTON (AP)—Imperiled automakers and their union worked feverishly Wednesday to sell a skeptical Congress on a \$34 billion aid plan, promising labor concessions and restructuring. The Senate's Democratic leader said there still weren't enough votes to tap the \$700 billion federal bailout fund to prop up the foundering Big Three.

One day before the chiefs of the auto companies return to Capitol Hill to make their urgent cases for loans, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the money was unlikely to come from the Wall Street rescue fund.

"I just don't think we have the votes to do that now," Reid told The Associated Press in an interview.

The White House called the timing of his comments "inter-

esting" coming on the eve of high-stakes congressional hearings Democrats demanded.

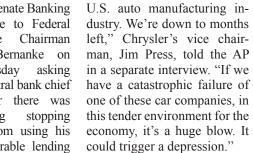
"It's not hospitable," said Dana Perino, the White House press secretary.

Indeed, the reception the Big Three were getting from Congress was anything but friendly. Even a top Democrat in charge of evaluating their aid requests made it clear he was eager to avoid voting on a bailout.

Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, wrote to Federal

> Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Wednesday asking the central bank chief whether there was anything stopping him from using his considerable lending authority to help the automakers.

In Capitol Hill meetings, industry officials said the collapse of one or more of the Big Three carmakers could greatly worsen the nation's recession and undermine the companies' ability



The United Auto Workers union, scrambling to preserve jobs and benefits, agreed at an emergency meeting in Detroit

"We're on the brink with the

to allow the companies to delay payments to a multibillion-dollar, union-run health care trust and to scale back a jobs bank in which laid-off workers are paid most of their wages. The concessions could help mollify some lawmakers who have criticized the union's benefits as too rich when compared with those of workers at foreign-brand auto plants in the U.S.

The Bush administration and auto-state Republicans and Democrats are pushing to help the automakers with aid from a different source: a previously approved \$25 billion program that's supposed to be used to help them produce more environmentally advanced vehicles.

Environmentalists—and a number of powerful friends in Congress—are vigorously opposing that idea.

Reid said the administration could act unilaterally to use a portion of the Wall Street bailout program for loans to the automakers, but the White House has consistently resisted that approach.



Shoppers have reasons to act like grinches

WASHINGTON (AP)—There are ample reasons for America's shoppers to act like grinches this holiday season, with lost jobs, wilting retirement accounts and shrinking home values topping the list.

And if anyone needed more evidence of consumers' weary state and the nation's deteriorating job market, they will get it Thursday with the latest batch of bleak economic data.

The number of newly laidoff people signing up for unemployment benefits last week is expected to climb by 8,000 to 537,000, according to economists' forecasts of new data to be released by the Labor Department.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asia stocks mixed

rate decisions

ahead of European

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—

Asian markets were mixed

Thursday as investors waited for key interest rate decisions in Eu-

rope later in the day and braced

for more bad news from Friday's U.S. jobs report. Oil prices fell

to fresh three-year lows. Japan's

Nikkei 225 average fell 100.66

points, or 1.3 percent, to 7,890.41

as automakers continued to slide

amid signs of slumping demand

for new vehicles in the United

State and Toyota said it was sus-

percent to 13,679.82, taking its

cue from stocks in mainland Chi-

na, which continued to rally after a government fund announced

it had bought shares in a major bank. New Zealand's share index

rose 0.9 percent after the central

bank slashed its cash rate by a record 1.5 percentage points.

Oil falls to 3-year low

Retailers are also expected to show grim results when they report their November sales on Thursday.

The Goldman Sachs-International Council of Shopping Centers sales index of retailers is expected to show a 1 percent drop in November, slightly worse than the 0.9 percent decline in October. That would be the weakest November performance since at least 1969 when the index began.

"Basically shoppers and workers are being told there is no Santa Claus," said Richard Yamarone, an economist at Argus Research.

Another economic report is expected to show that or-

of the year. Light, sweet crude

for January delivery was down

88 cents to \$45.91 a barrel—the

lowest since closing at \$45.42

on Feb, 10, 2005—in electronic

trading on the New York Mer-

cantile Exchange by midday in

Singapore. The contract fell 17

cents overnight to settle at \$46.79.

"You could see prices testing \$40

by the end of the year because the

economic data is really ugly at the

moment," said Christoffer Moltke-

Leth, head of sales trading at Saxo

Capital Markets in Singapore.

"Demand destruction is still very

much the concern." Oil prices have

ders placed with U.S. factories fell in October, reflecting pull backs from buyers in the United States as well as shoppers overseas, who are coping with their own economic troubles.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, meanwhile, will speak about the housing crisis, which has driven up foreclosures and forced financial companies to log massive losses on soured mortgage investments. The housing debacle touched off the worst financial crisis since the 1930s that Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson have been desperately trying to bring under control.



Mount Carmel School held the drawing of its 2008 Royal Court Raffle on November 26, 2008. Listed below are the winners:

Prizes:	Amount	Ticket No.	Winner's Name:
Grand Prize	\$1000.00	07806	Jimelou Cupatan
1st Prize	\$500.00	4295	Virgina Reyes
2 nd Prize	\$400.00	14431	Rosemarie Perez
3 rd Prize	\$300.00	17697	Ed Diaz
4 th Prize	\$300.00	23165	No Name
5 th Prize	\$200.00	18177	MM Pulido
6 th Prize	\$200.00	13972	Merle Braga
7 th Prize	\$100.00	18001	Lyn Morales
8 th Prize	\$100.00	3537	No Name
9 th Prize	\$100.00	12450	Covey S. Mendiola
10 th Prize	\$100.00	22274	EUWM

All prizes may be claimed at the Business Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday except Holidays. Last day to claim prizes will be on December 19, 2008. Any question(s) pertaining to this announcement may contact the Business Office at telephone number (670) 235-1201 or 235-1285.

> /s/ Margaret C. DelaCruz President, Mount Carmel School, Inc.

tumbled about 69 percent since pending some production in Japeaking at \$147.27 in July. pan. South Korea's Kospi fell 1.9 percent to 1,003.60, while Hong China urges Wash-Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.7

BEIJING (AP)—China's chief trade envoy urged Washington on Thursday to stabilize its economy and protect Beijing's U.S. investments as the two sides opened economic talks overshadowed by the global financial crisis and tensions over currency. "We hope the U.S. side will take the necessary measures to stabilize the economy and financial markets, as well as to guarantee the safety of China's assets and investments in the United States," Vice Premier Wang Oishan told U.S. Treasury Secretary

ington to protect its investments Henry Paulson and other U.S. officials at the Strategic Economic Dialogue. Wang did not elaborate. But Beijing is a major owner of U.S. Treasury debt that finances Washington's budget deficit, and the dollar's recent weakness and U.S. financial turmoil have fueled Chinese anxiety about the safety of such holdings.

Online money: Fidelity expands online news focus

BOSTON (AP)—Fidelity In-

vestments is joining the rush to satisfy investors' growing appetite for news about financial market turmoil. The nation's largest mutual fund company planned Thursday to announce a redesign of http://www.fidelity.com, with a deeper trove of information accessible from the home page. Most of it is news and commentary from outside media sources that appear alongside links to information on Fidelity's products. The revamp follows recent redesigns at other financial Web sites that are adding more financial news on home pages, and displaying it more prominently in response to growing demand. The number of U.S. households going online for financial news and investing information will grow from 55 million to 72 million by 2014, according to SRI Consulting Business Intelligence.

below \$46 on weak economy

tumble below \$40 by the end

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices sank to fresh 3-year lows Thursday in Asia as more bleak news from the world's largest economy signaled that crude could

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 21 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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0x & Plam

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SALE 4

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\$2.29 Limit 12

Spam All Flavors

SALE Limit 1

\$1.99/each

Sunflower

Pike 🌃

Mackerel

15 oz.

SALE 4



Black Label Luncheon Loaf

SALE

Fujisan

15 oz.

Del Monte

Cocktail

1

Fruit

\$1.39 Limit 12

Mackerel

SALE 4

\$1.49/each



Hormel Chili

SALE

\$1.59

Beach Cliff

Sardines_

SALE

79¢ 🕤

Kikkoman 🕮

(6pcs. i cs)

SALE 4

\$3.79 1.6 lr.

\$6.99 3 lr.

(No Beans)



Dutch Colony

SALE 3

Sausage

SALE

59¢/each

Vlassic Dill

Pickles

SALE

\$6.99 Whole

\$5.95 Whole

\$1.35

Vienna & Armour

Luncheon Meat

Hormel Corned

Beef Hash

SALE 3

\$1.79 Sliced

Ligo Sardines

SALE

3 for \$1.00

Vegetable

1 Gallon

SALE 3

\$8.75



Beef Rib

Finger



Gusto Smoked





SALE

SALE

\$9.99/5 lbs.

Kam Yen Jan

Chinese Style

\$17.99/pkg.







Ø,	SALE 69¢	SALE \$3.99
e	Sugar	Coffeemate 50 oz.
	My (SALE
Ď	\$1.49/kg.	\$6.99
	222	





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>	\$1.99 /pkg.
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Sausage



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Cool Aid	Kool Ai
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Kechel	
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ol Aid	Ritz Soda
Qrt.	All Flavors
LON N	24/24
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Lucky Mee Cup
Noodle
(JJamppong)
24 pcs.
SALE

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4	SAL
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LE ¢/lb.	Korean Pears SALE \$1.69/lbs. \$54.99/ca
taloupe	U.S. Eggs Extra Large
M	WW.

SALE



ES CHANGES WITHOU LOW PRICE WHIL <u>EVERYD</u> NOTICE **22** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Obama is delivering diversity, but some seek more

rack Obama, soon to be the first black U.S. president, is on the road to making good his pledge to have a Cabinet and White House staff that are among most diverse ever, although some supporters are asking him to go even further. He added to the minority representation at the top of his administration Wednesday when he named New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a Hispanic, as Commerce Secretary.

But some Latinos are grumbling it is not enough after all the support they gave him in the campaign, and gays and Asian-Americans are pushing for some representation in remaining Cabinet announcements. But overall Obama is allaying some early concerns that a black president wouldn't need to put so much importance on diversity of those working under him.

"The question was: Because he's black, how much pressure would he feel to be more traditional with appointments?" said Jamal Simmons, a Democratic consultant who worked with the Obama campaign. "The leadership of the campaign in the beginning wasn't very diverse, so there were questions about that. But I don't hear those questions any more.'

In Obama's seven Cabinet announcements so far, white men are the minority with two nominations—Timothy Geithner at Treasury and Robert Gates at Defense. Three are women-Janet Napolitano at Homeland Security, Susan Rice as United Nations ambassador and Hillary Rodham Clinton at State.

With Clinton set to replace Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright was jokingly asked at an appearance this week whether there will ever be a male secretary of state again. There probably will be "someday," she told her audience of business executives at the Fortune 500 Forum.

The United Nations ambassador is not a Cabinet position under President George Bush, but it was under former President Bill Clinton and Obama said it will be in his administration. His nominee, Susan Rice, is black, as is attorney general nominee Eric Holder.



Palin files late disclosure for two free trips in 2007

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)— Gov. Sarah Palin has added to her financial disclosure forms two free trips that she took nearly two years ago but failed to report. Palin, who was Republican presidential candidate John Mc-Cain's running mate, made the disclosures last month, but after Election Day when she and Mc-Cain lost to Barack Obama and Joe Biden. The trips were first revealed in a story by The Associated Press in October.

The free trips were taken in April and May of 2007 and should have been reported within 30 days under state ethics law. The Nov. 17 disclosure forms note that the reports were "not filed timely due to administrative error."

Bill McAllister, the governor's spokesman, said this week that the mistakes were made by travel support staff. He said he could not explain the timing of when and how they were caught, but that it was irrelevant because the error was corrected.

Palin, who has criticized state lawmakers for gifts they take, is not facing any sanctions for the late filings, according to Linda Perez, state administrative director. Perez said she was alerted to the matter by McCain's presidential campaign before the Oct. 14 AP story.

"It wasn't necessarily the governor's oversight, nor was she trying to hide anything," Perez said. "It was a staff oversight."

In one of the trips, the James B. Hunt Jr. Institute of North Carolina—a nonprofit education policy group—paid the \$2,827 cost of Palin's April 2007 flight and hotel in Scottsdale, Ariz., to attend a four-day conference, according to her report. The group has said it also paid for other governors attending the annual event in recent years.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES **NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Pulsicant to Public Law 8-41, section 11, the Open dovernment Act of 1992, the Mahanas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Mersday, December 10, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM and Thursday, December 11, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107;

The following agenda is hereby established:

- PRELIMINARIES
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
 Adoption of Minutes
 CONSULTANT REPORTS
 - Legal Counsel Reports* API F 501
 - Investment Consultant Reports Flash Reports November 2008
 - Market Update
- Board Consultant Reports
 Financial Statements September/October 2008
 Loan Administrator Reports
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Tinian Public Market Review
 - MPLT Resolution 09-01: Home Loan Program IPS Review & Amendment ETI By-laws Review & Amendment
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - IBPC Proposal
 54th Annual Employee Benefits Conference
 EXECUTIVE SESSION

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS VIII ADJOURNMENT

 * It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items

> /s/ Alvaro A. Santos Chairman, Board of Trustees

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will be conducting a Public Hearing on December 16, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., in the House Chamber, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive testimonies on the following legislations

Tuesday. December 16.2008: 9:00 a.m.

The following witnesses are requested to be present:

1. Mr. Gregory Baka, Attorney General

2. Honorable Robert Naraia. Superior Court

The following witnesses are requested to be present:

1. Honorable Robert Naraja, Superior Court

2. Honorable S. Demapan, Supreme Court

3. Mr. Gregory Baka, Attorney General

4. Ms. Maya B. Kara, CNMI Bar Association

5. Mr. James Rayphand, NMPASI

Mr. Silvio S. Ada, DYS

2. House Bill No. 16-178: "Juvenile Justice Act of 2008."

Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, Supreme Court Mr. Adam C. Hardwicke, Public Defender

Mr. Silvio S. Ada, DYS
 Ms. Maya B. Kara, CNMI Bar Association
 Secretary Joseph P. Villagomez, Department of Public Health
 Ms. Lucy Blanco-Maratita, Board of Education
 Mr. James Rayphand, NMPASI
 Mr. Bruce Mailman, Attorney At Law
 Heather Kennedy, Law Revision Commission

House Bill No. 16-157: "The Incompetency Determination Act of 2008'
 House Bill No. 16-158: "The Guardianship Act of 2008"

The House of Representatives

SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC HEARING

Telephone: (670) 664-8965 Facsimile: (670) 664-8966



UNITED STATES COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS **COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030 • Email: gddc@cnmiddcouncil.org Website: www.cnmiddcouncil.org

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Council Members of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, through its Interim Chairman, is hereby giving a notice that a Meeting is to take place on Friday, December 12, 2008 at 9:30 AM at the Charley's room, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan. The Council also chooses to exercise its right to enter into Executive Session at any point during this meeting.

AGENDA

- Preliminary Matters Call to Order Roll Call
- Noticell
 Stablish Quorum
 Review and Adoption of Agenda
 Review and Adoption of May 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes
 Review and Adoption of August 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Old Business
 - Election of Officers
 - Chair Vice-Chair Treasurer

 - Secretary
- Appointment of Committee Chairs Council Membership Review Committee
 - Finance Committee

- State Plan Committee
 Adhoc Human Resource Committee
 Adhoc Bylaws, Policies, Procedures Committee
 Adhoc Call a Ride Guidelines and Procedures Committee
- New Business
 1. 2009 DD Awareness Month FS 360 Mini Conference
- CNMI AT Grant Committee or Designation
- Interim Chairman
 Acting Executive Director
 Chairperson, Council Membership Review Committee
 Chairperson, Finance Committee
 Chair Chair Chair Committee
 Chair VII. Rep
- 5. Chairperson, Finance Committee
 VIII. Next Meeting Schedule
 IX. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodation are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7003. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Derek Duenas, Interim Chairperson



The House of Representatives

SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS

PUBLIC HEARING

CONTACT: Office of Representative Rosemond B. Santos

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will be conducting a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 18, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Tinian

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive testimonies on

- 1. House Bill No. 16-147: "Juvenile Interrogation"
- 2. House Bill No. 16-157: "The Incompetency Determination Act of 2008'
- 3. House Bill No. 16-158: "The Guardianship Act of 2008"
- 4. House Bill No. 16-178: "Juvenile Justice Act of 2008." Interested Members of the General Public are also welcome to

submit written or oral testimony.

Copies of the legislation may be obtained at the Office of Representative Santos or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp.

Rosemond B. Santos Chair

xc: SAPLR

Speaker, House of Representatives

Members, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations



The House of Representatives

SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: December 3,2008

Office of Representative Rosemond B. Santos Telephone: (670) 664-8965 Facsimile: (670) 664-8966

The date scheduled for the public hearing of the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations scheduled on December 19, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Rota Court House is hereby rescheduled to December 17,2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive testimonies on the following legislations:

- 1. House Bill No. 16-147: "Juvenile Interrogation"
- 2. House Bill No. 16-157: "The Incompetency Determination Act
- 3. House Bill No. 16-158: "The Guardianship Act of 2008"
- 4. House Bill No. 16-178: "Juvenile Justice Act of 2008."

Interested Members of the General Public are also welcome to submit written or oral testimony.

Copies of the legislation may be obtained at the Office of Representative Santos or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp.

/s/ DIEGO T. BENAVENTE Vice Chairman

Media

Speaker, House of Representatives Members, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

Copies of the legislation may be obtained at the Office of Representative Santos or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp.

Witnesses are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before December 12, 2008.

Interested Members of the General Public are also welcome to submit written or oral testimony.

/s/ Rosemond B. Santos

xc: SAPLR

Speaker, House of Representatives Members, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

Media

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Shackled Calif. boy jumped fence to escape

TRACY, Calif. (AP)—After being held captive for nearly a year, an emaciated and shackled 17-year-old boy climbed out a window in the home of his captors and walked into a nearby gym in search of help, police said. Authorities were still investigating the boy's alleged imprisonment and abuse by a California couple, but details of his escape were becoming clearer Wednesday, police said. Law enforcement officers also were trying to determine how the aunt and one-time guardian of the teen knew the couple accused of holding him against his will for nearly a year. Caren Ramirez was arrested Tuesday in Berkeley, a day after the boy walked into a gym and begged managers to hide him. He was covered in soot, had a chain on his foot and was wearing only boxer briefs. Police arrested a couple who lived near the gym in Tracy and booked them on suspicion of torture, kidnapping and child abuse. Tracy is about 60 miles east of San Francisco.

Pa. businessman charged with sex crimes in Russia

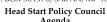
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A wealthy Russian-born businessman from suburban Philadelphia was charged Wednesday with traveling to orphanages in his native country to molest young girls and hire them out as prostitutes. Andrew Mogilyansky, 38, of Richboro, was charged with traveling abroad to engage in illegal sexual activity and with committing sex crimes while overseas. A federal indictment alleges he molested three teenage girls brought to his apartment in St. Petersburg, Russia, from a nearby orphanage in late 2003 and early 2004, then recruited them into an online-based child prostitution business in Moscow that he ran with several other people. The girls were 13 and 14 years old, Acting U.S. Attorney Laurie Magid said. "The significance of this case is, we want people to fully understand that you cannot just go to another country and think you are out of the reach of law enforcement," Magid said.

Conservatives form rival group to Episcopal Church

NEW YORK (AP)—Theological conservatives upset by liberal views of U.S. Episcopalians and Canadian Anglicans formed a rival North American province Wednesday, in a long-developing rift over the Bible that erupted when Episcopalians consecrated the first openly gay bishop. The announcement represents a new challenge to the already splintering, 77-million-member world Anglican fellowship and the authority of its spiritual leader, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. The new Anglican Church in North America includes four breakaway Episcopal dioceses, dozens of individual parishes in the U.S. and Canada, and splinter groups that left the Anglican family years, or in one case, more than a century ago. Its future status in the Anglican Communion is unclear.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on December 9, 2008 (Tuesday) from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Fresko Cabin, Palms Resort, San Roque, Saipan.

- Preliminary Matters
 1. Roll Call
 - Ouorum
- Adoption of Agenda Adoption of Minutes November 13, 2008
- Monthly Program Report
 1. CIP Coordinator
- Director
 - Managers
 - Monthly Financial Status Report
- IV. Standing Committee
 1. Personnel
 2. Education
- 3. Executive
- Finance Public Relations
- V. Old Business
- Tabled Item
- Approval of the 6th Amendment to the Organization Chart VI New Business
 - Women Infant and Children (WIC) Program (informational only) Reprogram from Basic to Administrative (informational only)
- Approval of Parent Activity Fund Plan (Rota Head Start)
 Approval to Hire
 Approval of 2008-9 Self Assessment Plan

 VII. Next Meeting
 Scheduling of:
 A. Head Start Policy Council
 B. Subcommittee

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41 Section 13(a)7 the Council may vote to meet in

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Quitugua at 664-3751.

Chairperson

Couples staying together because of poor economy

By AMANDA LEE MYERS and CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Running into your ex is almost always awkward and stressful. David Snyder and Nancy Partridge deal with it nearly every day.

The Denver couple divorced after six years of marriage but have been forced to live together for months because they can't sell their place or afford to set up separate households in this slumping economy.

Snyder gets the master bedroom, while Partridge gets a smaller one. Snyder watches TV on one end of the house, Partridge on the other. The two split the grocery bill and kitchen duties. Sometimes they eat dinner together, sometimes apart. There are awkward silences, or worse.

"We've had tremendous arguments over things like who gets to park in the garage, but at this point, it's kind of settling down into a routine," said Partridge, 45, who works in public relations. "It's the lesser of two evils. I think the financial stress of a foreclosure, which would probably also lead to a bankruptcy, would be worse."

With the recession and the collapse of the housing market, more and more couples who have broken up are continuing cording to judges and divorce lawyers. Some are waiting for housing prices to rebound; some are trying to get back on their feet financially.

The phenomenon is being felt around the country but most keenly in areas hit harder by foreclosure, such as the Sun Belt.

When the real estate market was booming, couples would promptly sell their home, split the profits and go their separate ways.

These days, Florida Judge John C. Lenderman said, about a third of his cases involve homes that are in foreclosure or that a family is struggling to sell. Lenderman said he has never seen anything like it in 40 years as a lawyer and judge.

"They just can't do anything, financially," he said. "I've actually got a number of people, guys who are saying they're sleeping in their cars or pickup trucks, not paying their child support or anything. I've got some folks here who are down to flipping burgers."

Sometimes the financial implications of a divorce are so grim that a couple whose marriage is on the rocks decide to give it another try.

Kent Peterson, a longtime divorce mediator in Wayzata, Minn., said a young couple





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/s/ **IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ** SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPOR P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962

PUBLIC NOTICE

SOLICITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, hereby solicits proposals to lease and/or develop the following properties:

- 1. Lot No. 062 E 03; containing an area of approximately 1,725 square meters; two butler type buildings, situated at the Saipan Seaport.
- 2. Lot No. 090 E 02; containing an area of approximately 1,958 square adjacent to FAS Moving, situated at the Sainar
- 3. Lot No. 193 E 05; containing an area of approximately 6,455 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.
- 4. Lot No. 193 E 06; containing an area of approximately 5,163 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.
- 5. Lot No. 066 E 01; containing an area of approximately 1,371 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.

Interested parties may obtain a Proposal Package from the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. A fee of \$35.00 shall be charged for each copy of the proposal package. Checks should be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Proposal Package must be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on or before December 12, 2008.

For more information, contact the Manager, Port of Saipan at 664-3550.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E. Executive Director

Date: November 24, 2008

to live under the same roof, ac- from the Minneapolis area were afford to rent a place on her own. moving toward separation until they got a look at all the costs involved in divorce.

'The thinking was they need to work a little harder and stay together because of the changing asset picture," he said.

Linda Melville filed for divorce from John, her husband of 13 years, in August. Four months later, the estranged couple are still living on the same property in St. Petersburg, Fla.: she in the main, two-story brick house, surrounded by mementos of their marriage; he in a onebedroom apartment that stands about 75 feet back.

Linda was laid off from her job in October and said she cannot And so, while she looks for a job and tries to start the next chapter of her life, she remains in the home where the couple—who had no children together—celebrated holidays, put in a back deck and laid flagstone steps together out-

side the front door. "Living as close as we do, it really makes it difficult to achieve closure," she said recently.

Despite the close quarters, the couple rarely cross paths. Linda Melville said they hadn't spoken to each other for a month before meeting about their divorce in late November. "The only conversation that takes place is via the lawyers," she said. "Even negotiating a day to do laundry."



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPOR' P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

TINIAN FERRY PASSENGER FEE

THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY WILL DIRECTLY COLLECT THE \$2.25 PASSENGER FEE AT THE TINIAN SEAPORT FROM ALL NON DYNASTY GUESTS TRAVELING FROM TINIAN TO SAIPAN EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 15, 2008. BEFORE PURCHASING THE FERRY TICKET FROM THE TINIAN FERRY CASHIER, THE PASSENGER SHALL FIRST PAY THE PASSENGER FEE TO THE DESIGNATED CPA PERSONNEL. A RECEIPT SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE PASSENGER TO PRES-ENT TO THE TINIAN FERRY CASHIER. THE TINIAN FERRY CASHIER SHALL NOT SELL THE FERRY TICKET TO ANYONE WITHOUT A RECEIPT OF THE PASSENGER FEE PAYMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PASSENGER FEE, CALL 433-9493.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E. **Executive Director**



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF PROPERTY **GROUNDS**

And
PERIMETER FENCE AND DITCH GRASS CUTTING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for (A) Mowing of grass, trimming of flowers, bushes and trees and cleaning of the airport grounds and (B) Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting. The sealed cost proposals in duplicates are due by 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2008 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The scope of work and contract documents shall be ready for pick up at the above said office by Monday, December 1, 2008.

Proposers may submit for both Part A and Part B, or proposers may submit for only one part, either A or B if desired. Part A is the first project and is labeled "SIA Mowing, Trimming and Cleaning of Property Grounds." Part B is the second project and is labeled "SIA Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting."

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at the CPA Airport Conference. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory to be considered for the services.

Please make arrangements with the Airport Manager at telephone number 664-3500 for a site visit to better understand the scope of work and to identify the areas depicted

Along with your proposal, the submission of insurance coverage, company past performance, experience, a list of equipment and most recent financial statement reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant, are required to completely determine the company's capability to perform the work. The successful proposer shall enter into an agreement with CPA for a one-year term which is renewable thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date for another year or as determined by CPA. The renewal of agreement shall be contingent upon CPA's satisfaction of the company's performance and the availability of funding.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its sole decision to do so, is

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.

Date: November 26, 2008

24 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

Official: Pakistani group leaders linked to attacks

MUMBAI, India (AP)—India suspects that two senior leaders of a banned Pakistani militant group masterminded last week's three-day terrorist attacks that killed 171 people in Mumbai, an Indian intelligence official said Thursday.

Evidence collected in the investigation of the deadly siege points to Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Yusuf Muzammil, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the details.

Lakhvi and Muzammil are believed to be top members of the outlawed Pakistani group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which India blames in the attacks. Muzammil is the group's chief of operations in Kashmir and other parts of India and Lakhvi its chief of operations, authorities said. The two suspects are believed to be in Pakistan, the Indian intelligence official said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Pakistan on Thursday for meetings with civilian and military leaders



A bomb disposal squad officer, center, takes a suspicious box to the police station after diffusing a bomb at Chhatrapati Shivaji train station in Mumbai, India, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008.

after visiting Indian leaders in New Delhi. She aimed to raise pressure on Pakistan's government to help get to the bottom of the terror attacks.

The U.S. wants Pakistan to do more to go after terror cells rooted in Pakistan. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mike Mullen was pushing the same message in Pakistan on Wednesday, and also was to meet with officials in India during his trip.

Meanwhile, police found two bombs at Mumbai's main train station nearly a week after they were left there by gunmen behind the attacks—a stunning new example of the botched security that has sparked outrage in India since the deadly three-day siege.

Rice urges 'robust' Pakistani response to attacks

ISLAMABAD, (AP)—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday the Pakistani government must mount a "robust response" to the terror shootings in India, which blames the carnage on terrorists operating from neighboring Pakistan.

After expressing U.S. condolences for the more than 170 deaths in India, Rice flew to Pakistan for meetings with civilian and military leaders. The U.S. wants broader sharing of intelligence and a commitment by Pakistan to root out terror groups that have found a comfortable perch in the Muslim country.

On the flight from New Delhi, Rice told reporters Pakistan has to determine how it is going to respond to last week's at-

tacks in the Indian commercial perpetrated by individuals who capital of Mumbai.

"It just has to be a robust response and one that is effective" in bringing the terrorists to justice. "But I've also been emphasizing the importance of prevention here. The Pakistanis are sophisticated; they've been dealing with terrorism themselves for some time. So I'm going there to talk about a Pakistani response, not to carry messages."

Pakistan has complained that India has shared no evidence linking it to the attacks.

Rice spent the day urging cooperation between the nuclear rivals, but the rhetoric in both countries only grew hotter.

"I informed Dr. Rice that there is no doubt that the terrorist attacks in Mumbai were came from Pakistan and whose controllers are in Pakistan," Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said.

That left Rice to say Pakistan bears a "special responsibility" to help get to the bottom of the attacks while awkwardly declining to finger Pakistani militants outright.

Mukherjee said the view that the Mumbai attacks were based in Pakistan is broadly shared around the world, putting Rice on the spot. She said she would not prejudge an investigation into the attacks.

While Rice was assuring India of U.S. help in fighting terrorism, the top U.S. military officer was next door in Pakistan for closed-door talks.

Thailand restores international air links

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)— Thailand's battered political parties tried to come up with a candidate Thursday to replace the ousted prime minister as airport authorities hurried to restore international air links severed by protesters who occupied Bangkok's two airports for a week.

The airport sieges, which were lifted Wednesday, had stranded more than 300,000 travelers while an unknown number have been trying to fly into Thailand from around the world.

Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi international airport will be "open for full services including check-in and immigration" at 11:00 a.m. (0400 GMT) Friday, airport chief Serirat Prasutanont said in a statement.

It is now up to the airlines to resume operations from Suvarnabhumi, which was shut after anti-government protesters swarmed the facility Nov. 25.

Thai officials have been scrambling to get the airport functional to mark the birthday Friday of the revered constitutional monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

He was scheduled to give his customary birthday-eve speech Thursday night. Many Thais hoped it would give guidance

for ending the country's political crisis, which received a temporary respite when a court verdict ousted Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat on Tuesday and antigovernment protesters lifted their airport sieges the following day.

Serirat said many airlines such as Thai Airways, Bangkok Airways, Singapore Airlines, China Airlines and Japan Airlines have already requested to start flying out of Suvarnabhumi.

The requests total 101 passenger and cargo flights, of which 65 are inbound and 36 outbound. Normally, the airport operates 600 to 700 flights a day.

World

Passengers describe 'cheeky' pirate attack

MUSCAT, Oman (AP)— Ordered to get inside and stay down, Oregon tourist Clyde Thornburg heard the pirates' rifle shots hit the side of the luxury cruise liner—"Pop! Pop! Pop!"—then felt the ship speed up to escape.

At this port north of the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden, passengers told The Associated Press on Wednesday they had been warned of the danger even before they embarked, and the crew used a device that blasted painful high-decibel sound waves to keep the marauders at bay.

The attack on the nearly 600foot-long cruise ship in the dangerous waters between Yemen and Somalia was the latest evidence pirates have grown more brazen, viewing almost any vessel as a potential target—even a large luxury liner with hundreds of tourists on board.

But the assault on the M/S Nautica lasted only five minabout 650 passengers and 400 crew members sped away quickly and was not seized.

"We didn't think they would be cheeky enough to attack a cruise ship," said Wendy Armitage, of Wellington, New Zealand, shortly after disembarking for a daylong port stop in the Omani capital of Muscat.

During the assault, pirates on one of two skiffs fired eight rifle shots at the ship, according to its American operator, Oceania Cruises, Inc. The captain ordered the passengers inside and accelerated the cruise liner quickly, leaving the pirates far behind in their 20- to 30-foot wooden speedboats, powered with twin outboard motors.

"I couldn't see them shooting, but I heard them hitting the ship, 'Pop! Pop! Pop!" said Thornburg, of Bend, Ore. "It wasn't really scary because the captain announced for the safety of everybody to get inside and get the southern tip of Africa.

utes Sunday, and the ship with down, and by that time he was pouring on the coals to the ship and was outrunning them."

> Lynne Pincini of Australia said she was heading to a friend's cabin when the order came to keep their heads down and stay inside.

> "We heard the announcement, and of course we went straight out on the balcony to have a look," she said. "It was like a very large speedboat. It was running alongside the boat."

> The passengers were on a monthlong cruise from Rome to Singapore, a route that took them through the Gulf of Aden between Somalia and Yemen, where pirates have hijacked dozens of vessels this year.

> Cargo ships, cruise liners and other vessels use the route—the only access to the Suez Canal shortcut between East and West—unless they are willing to add weeks to the trip by traveling around

Canada's PM says bid to topple him undemocratic

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's decision which path to take if governor general cut short a European trip Tuesday to deal with an unprecedented political crisis that could force the second national election in two months or see an opposition coalition take power.

Michaelle Jean, who is the representative of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, holds a mostly ceremonial position. But it will be her the opposition votes to oust Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

Constitutional experts speculated Jean would probably allow the opposition to form a government since parliamentary elections were just held Oct. 14.

The Liberals, New Democrats and Bloc Quebecois, which together control a majority in Parliament, signed a pact Monday agreeing to vote to oust Harper's minority government next week and setting the structure for their proposed coalition government.

Harper is maneuvering to head off the no-confidence vote set for Monday. He was expected to ask Jean to call new elections or to suspend Parliament until next month, delaying his likely defeat in a confidence vote.

WORLD BRIEFS

US releases first part of drug aid for Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The U.S. government finally released the first part of a \$400 million aid package Wednesday to support Mexico's police and soldiers in their fight against drug cartels. The money comes at a critical time: Mexico's death toll from drug violence has soared above 4,000 so far this year, and drug-related murders and kidnappings are spilling over the U.S. border as well. U.S. Ambassador Tony Garza formally released \$197 million at a signing ceremony in Mexico City, calling it "the most significant effort ever undertaken" by the U.S. and Mexico to fight drugs. The rest will be disbursed throughout the year. "The Merida Initiative is not just about money. It is about a closer and more collaborative effort by the United States and Mexico to work more effectively together to share information in a more timely fashion," Garza said.

Russia to send warship through Panama Canal

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP)—Russia said Wednesday it is sending a warship through the Panama Canal for the first time since World War II, a short journey loaded with symbolic weight: the destroyer will dock at a former U.S. naval base, showcasing Russia's growing influence in the region. Russia appears to be relishing the idea of stopping at what was long a symbol of U.S. global power; the Russian Navy announced it would visit "the Rodman naval base"-a name that the host nation, Panama has not used since taking over the base from the United States

in 1999. The destroyer Admiral Chabanenko is scheduled to enter the Panama Canal on Friday morning and arrive late in the day at what Panama calls the Balboa Naval Base. "It is a sort of tit-for-tat for Russia's perception of U.S. meddling in Georgia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe," and has little military purpose, said Adam Isacson, an analyst for the Washington-based Center for International Policy. Russia, like the United States, already has ports with access to both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

92 nations sign cluster-bomb ban; US, Russia don't

OSLO, Norway (AP)—An Afghan teenager who lost both legs in a cluster bomb explosion helped persuade his country to change its stance and join nearly 100 nations in signing a treaty Wednesday banning the disputed weapons. Afghanistan was initially reluctant to join the pact—which the United States and Russia have refused to support—but agreed to after lobbying by victims maimed by cluster munitions, including 17-year-old Soraj Ghulan Habib. The teen, who uses a wheelchair, met with his country's ambassador to Norway, Jawed Ludin, at a twoday signing conference in Oslo. "I explained to the ambassador my situation, and that the people of Afghanistan wanted a ban," Habib, who said he was crippled by a cluster bomb seven years ago, told The Associated Press. Speaking through an interpreter, Habib said the ambassador called Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who agreed to change his stance on the treaty. "Today is a historic day," Habib declared.

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Off The Wall

Want jail credit? Just clean up blood, vomit, etc.

waukee County jail inmates can knock an hour off their sentence for each hour they spend on some dirty work—cleaning up blood, feces, saliva and other bodily fluids at the House of Correction and Criminal Justice Facility.

a common-sense approach to clean-up chores no one is eager to take on.

"Look, somebody has to do it," Clarke said. "It's cost effective because the alternative is to pay a county worker to do the

Sheriff David Clarke said it's job. With pay and benefits, that comes to \$30 an hour."

> Those who volunteer get biohazard training and protective gear.

> "This isn't heart surgery and it's not like we're asking them to handle nuclear waste," Clarke

said. "It's janitorial work and they a taxicab driver, disorderly do have to be trained properly because of AIDS and hepatitis."

Records show two inmates have earned time off under the program.

A 33-year-old-West Allis man convicted of fraud on conduct and criminal damage to property worked nearly 13 days off his sentence.

A 29-year-old Greenfield man convicted of fraudulently obtaining a prescription drug worked off almost 11 days.

The program has been approved by the county's judges and the state jail inspector.

The union for county workers has no objections.

"It's not a job we're going to fight to keep," said union president Kurt Zunker.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ohio artist offers legless Santa and crazed tree

OBERLIN, Ohio (AP)—A northern Ohio artist known for envelope-pushing holiday displays is back-with Santa Claus in a wheelchair being pushed down stairs by a crazed tree. The Santa in Keith McGuckin's installation at the Oberlin Public Library has no legs because of an accident involving alcohol and some power lines. An accompanying narrative explains that the tree later goes off to a strip club with money from Santa's Salvation Army kettle. Library director Darren McDonough said the display is staying. He jokes that if a library doesn't have something that offends, it's not doing its job.

Camels found wandering in **Mexican border city** CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico

(AP)—It may have seemed like a mirage: Two camels nibbling on a pine tree along a street in this desert metropolis on the Texas border. Police tried lassoing the animals, which lunged at the officers with snapping teeth as onlookers chuckled. But in the end, officials say all it took was some juicy green leaves on a branch held by the caretaker to lure the camels back into captivity. Police spokesman Jaime Torres says the camels named Yull and Tobi escaped early Wednesday from the warehouse of a businessman, who had bought the animals for a planned amusement park.

Ghost tour spooked after car plows into group

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)— Things got a little spookier than expected during a ghost tour when a driver lost control of her

car and plowed into the group. The Charleston Post and Courier reported two people suffered minor injuries in the Tuesday night accident near Charleston's famous Four Corners of Law at Meeting and Broad streets. Police said the driver of the Mazda RX7 accidentally hit the gas instead of the clutch. The driver, who was not ticketed, said she recently bought the car but had only driven it a few times. Bulldogs Tour owner John La Verne refunded the tour fee although some completed the outing.

RI man bags mutant, 4-clawed lady lobster

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—A lady lobster with four claws was pulled from the deep this week in the waters off Newport. With a large crusher claw and three pincher claws—instead of the usual one—

the crustacean was unlike anything 39-year-old lobsterman Patrick Marks had ever seen in his 14 years catching the creatures. All of the lobster's excess appendages worked. Marks trapped the mutated animal about 60 miles south of Newport and hauled her up on Monday. Marks told the Newport Daily News he sometimes lets lobsters go out of guilt when they look at him funny. So after showed

off the multi-clawed lobster for most of the day, he let her go. She weighed 1.5 pounds and could have sold for \$7.50 retail.

Fla. man accused of making boy drive on beer run

CAPE CORAL, Fla. (AP)— Authorities in southwest Florida say an intoxicated man had his 9-vear-old son take him on a beer run. Cape Coral police arrested the 27-year-old man last week, after seeing a pickup truck drive onto a median. When officers stopped the truck, the man told them he was teaching his son to drive. Officers say the father's speech was slurred, his breath smelled of alcohol and he unable to stand without swaying. Police said an open case of Budweiser beer was in the backseat.



Jesus B./ Gina J. Manibusan (Conchitina Marie & Georgina)

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Tuesday, December 9th, 2008, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 a.m. for viewing and

last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. Interment service will

follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers.

DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MAASE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

The Family

Vivian M./ Edwin Patrick C. Lizama (Kimberly Marie)

Also survived by numerous uncles/aunties/cousins & friends.

Ngerbuns Mariya)



26 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Science & Technology

Gadget guidance for 2008

By ROB PEGORARO (C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Media players

The market for MP3 players—more accurately called "media players," since most also handle photos and video clips—is dominated by one company, Apple, that didn't even enter this business until the fall of 2001.

Should you do anything about that?

Probably not. The iPod deserves most of its success: It's simple, it's stylish, and it works. Competing players are often cheaper, but most fail to match the iPod in at least one of those core virtues.

If you were already planning on getting an iPod, you just have to pick one of Apple's four models: the tiny, cheap, no-display-included iPod Shuffle; the shirt-pocketsized iPod Nano; the larger, high-capacity iPod

Classic; and the iPhone-minus-a-phone iPod Touch. (Technically, the iPhone counts as a fifth.) For most uses, I'd go with the Nano. It plays music and displays photos about equally well, it's almost as effective for playing shorter videos (I wouldn't want to watch a fulllength movie on the thing), and it has the same elegantly simple clickwheel control as other iPods.

What about non-iPod players? Microsoft's Zune comes closest, with its own multimedia support; its built-in FM tuner; and a desktop Windows program that makes finding, downloading and subscribing to podcasts almost as easy as in Apple's iTunes.

Since my comparison of the latest iPod Nano and the most recent Zune, Microsoft's player has gained an extra advantage: If you subscribe to its \$14.99/month Zune Pass service, you can download permanent copies of 10 songs a month, in addition to the unlimited number of restricted copies this subscription option allows.

Other aspects to consider in an MP3 ... er, media player:

■ Flash-memory storage is better

ity with no room for improvement. Consider the two other figures you'll see touted in most camera ads: optical zoom and screen size. tiple like "3x," "4x," or "10x," in-

than hard-drive storage. Flash is far more durable and is getting cheaper all the time. Today, a 16-gigabyte flash player, enough to store many people's entire collections, costs \$200 or less; a year from now, that price should buy at least a 32 GB model.

■ Check what music formats a player can handle in addition to MP3, the most widely used type. Support for AAC will allow a player to handle songs

> copied from CDs in iTunes using its default settings, plus iTunes Plus downloads from Apple's iTunes Store. Windows Media Audio support permits playback of songs ripped under Windows Media Player's default settings. Some non-Zune, WMAcompatible players also support an old Microsoft system called PlaysFor-Sure, which a diminishing number of music stores and some library

audiobook downloads require.

Digital cameras

The proof that digital cameras

have arrived as a mass-mar-

ket product? You can now

ignore the number

that was once

supposed to

drive any

such pur-

chase,

resolu-

tion. Sev-

en mil-

lion pix-

els (mega-

pixels) has

become the

minimum on new

8-by-10 printouts.

models, a figure way

more than sufficient to allow for sharp

But the passing of this number's rele-

vance in the mass market doesn't mean

that cameras have become a commod-

The former, expressed as a mul-

dicates the telephoto reach of the

lens. (Ignore "digital zoom," in

which the camera crops a shot

and magnifies what's left of

the image.) A 3x zoom has

become a nearly universal

minimum, which equates to

about a 115mm or 118mm

telephoto on a 35mm cam-

era, but you can easily get

5x lenses on pocket-sized

optical zoom above 7x or

so, you'll probably need

a non-pocketable "ultra-

zoom" or an even bulkier

point-and-shoot models. If, however, you want an

■ If you're considering an entrylevel player, see if your phone can't do the job.

digital singlelens-reflex camera that, like film SLRs, accepts interchangeable lenses. What about wide-angle shooting? Many cameras still neglect that option.

As for screen size, the increasingly large LCDs on the back of cameras have made it easier to inspect and show off the pictures you just took—but many cameras sacrifice traditional optical viewfinders to make room for these displays. That can be a problem when bright sunlight washes out the LCD's picture or you can't shut off the LCD to save battery life.

In their favor, some large-screen cameras allow you to operate their controls by touching icons on their displays, which can make things significantly easier than the usual controls: poorly labeled buttons and spinning dials on the back or top of the camera.

Other useful features on a camera may not be advertised so prominently:

■ Do not get a camera without im-

age stabilization, an almost-

magical technology that lets you

take steady shots at slow shutter

speeds without a tripod. Optical stabi-

lization, in which the camera moves its

image sensor or lens to compensate for

any shakes, works better than digital

stabilization, where the camera's soft-

focusing, in which the camera's soft-

ware picks out human faces to ensure

that it stays focused on them and not,

say, the building 15 feet behind. (Some

manufacturers have followed up this

feature with similar mistake-proofing

options that try to ensure people's eyes

■ Buying the smallest cameras avail-

able often requires using proprietary,

expensive batteries. Slightly thicker cameras often take rechargeable AAs,

which don't require a special charger

and can be replaced in an emergency

■ Try to get a camera that takes cheap,

industry-standard SD Cards (used in

models by Canon, Kodak, Nikon and

most other vendors) instead of xD-Pic-

tureCards (found on Fuji and Olympus

cameras) or Memory Sticks (employed by Sony). The latter two cost more, can

■ The same goes for face-detection

ware tries to iron out jitters.

are open in a shot.)

with regular AAs.



find and can't be popped into the memorycard reader slots on some smaller laptops, HDTVs and other gadgets. While I'm on this subject, try not to buy a memory card

in a regular store. You can get much better prices online.

For assessments of individual cameras from an enthusiast consumer's perspective, I like the writeups at the Digital Camera Resource Page, www. dcresource.com; for a more detailed, pro-oriented perspective, see the evaluations at The Imaging Resource, www.imaging-resource.com and Digital Photography Review, www.dpreview.com.



Beyond the cameras and computers, you may find a few other types of gadgets occupy a spot on your shopping (or wish) list.

GPS receivers

ers have made a mess of it at times.

Bluetooth hands-free capability also makes sense as a GPS feature, but I can't say the same for multimedia options like music playback and photo viewing. Any GPS receiver will need to have its maps updated at some point to reflect new construction, but your ability to install these updates or upload your own points of interest may be constrained by a vendor's limited

software support. Sony and Magellan, for example, require you to run Windows, while Garmin provides both Windows and Mac software for the job.

Digital picture frames

When evaluating a few different

It helps if you can play with one in a store, so you can see if you like, or at least tolerate, its arrangement of buttons and onscreen interface. Most provide about the same map coverage and routing advice, so their differences tend to emerge in add-on functions. Some GPS receivers, for example, incorporate live traffic updates, delivered through a small FM receiver at an additional cost; this can be a useful addition, but manufactur-

Like GPS receivers, these devices tend to stumble as they try to take on more jobs. The most satisfying frames are often the simplest, combining just a color display and a memory-card slot-pop a card in from your camera and watch. Additions such as music and networked photo-sharing haven't worked out that well.



models, you should look at not just the

size of their screens but their resolu-

tion. Some cheaper models cut costs by

offering a lower resolution than normal

Pick a storage technology first. MiniDV

tape is cheap and widely available, but

you have to plug the camcorder into

a TV to play back your footage, and

transferring recordings to a computer

for editing can take time. Mini DVDs

require a slightly larger camcorder and

don't permit any easy editing, but you

can also throw them into just about

any DVD player. Hard-drive based

camcorders offer massive storage but

for their screen dimensions.

Camcorders

require the intervention of a computer before you can share your movies with anybody. Lastly, camcorders that take flash-memory cards don't allow for tremendously long recordings on a single card, but you can always pop in another one-then plug a card into a computer, TV or DVD player (assuming they have the right kind of cardreader slot) for later viewing.

Flash-based models seem to be taking up an increasing share of the market as the price of cards continues to plunge; the future doesn't seem too bright for tape and disc-based units.

Most camcorders can also take still pictures, but they tend to perform worse than digital cameras. You may decide that you don't need a camcorder because your camera already does that job.

Two last tips: Don't buy the extra warranty, and don't buy the fancy cables.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 **27** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

Rockefeller Center lights tree in annual ceremony



The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is lit in New York, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008.

survivors whose new house was last year's Rockefeller Center

A family of Hurricane Katrina Christmas tree were among tens of thousands who attended this way spruce was illuminated Wednesday night in the Manhattan plaza after performances

partly built with lumber from year's lighting ceremony. The eight-ton, 72-foot Norby entertainers including Tony

Ubama campaign manager to write book

Obama's campaign manager, David Plouffe, is writing a book about the historic election victory and has retained Washington attorney Robert Barnett, Obama's literary representative, to shop the proposal to publishers.

The book has been tentatively titled, "The Audacity To Win," a reference to Obama's millionselling "The Audacity of Hope." Having helped manage one of the most sophisticated and highly praised campaigns ever, Plouffe plans not only an inside look at the Obama run but also advice for how to manage a large organization.

"Hopefully, there will be some lessons on how to put together a three-quarters of a billion dollar operation," Plouffe said Wednesday, adding that the book would be high on tac-

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack tics, and low on gossip, with an inevitable critique of the rival campaigns.

> "I don't have a huge interest in scoring points, but there was a difference in strategy and ap-



he said of the organization of Republican John McCain. He will

proach,"

also write about the

intense Democratic primary race against Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has since been picked by Obama to be secretary of state.

"We had enormous respect for that campaign," Plouffe said, although he expects the narrative would inevitably touch upon "strategic mistakes."

the book ready for release in the fall of 2009. Barnett expects to begin meeting with publishers this week.

Plouffe, 41, hopes to have

"There will be many books about the Obama campaign, but only one from the campaign itself," Barnett said, noting that most of Obama's former campaign aides—but not Plouffe—are joining the Obama administration.

Plouffe, whose wife recently gave birth to a girl, said he remains in touch with his former colleagues and that Obama is aware of and approves of the book.

"His only advice to me was Don't damage your reputation by writing a bad book," said Plouffe, who besides writing his book, plans on working as a consultant and spending time with his family.

Prosecutor: Jealousy behind Hudson family killings

CHICAGO (AP)—The brotherin-law of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson killed three of her relatives—with a gun stolen from one of the victims—because he was angry his estranged wife, the star's sister, was dating another man, prosecutors alleged

William Balfour appeared in court for the first time in connection with the deaths and was denied bond. His attorney said authorities have no forensic evidence linking Balfour to the killings, but prosecutors said witness statements and the suspect's own lies and threats helped lead them to him.

Balfour was charged with murder Tuesday after being held for weeks on a parole violation. The slightly built man, wearing a yellow jump suit, stood quietly Wednesday as prosecutor LuAnn Snow described how he allegedly killed his 7-year-old stepson, Julian King, Hudson's

erson, and Hudson's brother, Jason Hudson.

Snow said Balfour had been at the Hudsons' South Side home early Oct. 24 and confronted his estranged wife, Julia Hudson, about a birthday present he

she had received from boyfriend.

Balfour, S n o w said, also had shown up to Julia



Balfour

Hudson's workplace earlier in the month to confront her about dating another man.

"He told her at the time that her family would suffer if she saw other men," Snow said after Wednesday's hearing.

Balfour threatened Julia Hudson again that morning at the home, Snow said, adding that

mother, Darnell Hudson Don- Hudson did not take the threat seriously because he "had not followed through on any of those threats" before.

The two left the home together that morning, with Hudson driving away as she saw Balfour walking toward his own car, according to documents pr tors filed with the court.

But Balfour's car broke down and two acquaintances gave him a ride to a gas station—during which time Balfour told them he had a handgun, but had left it in his car, Snow alleged.

In fact, the prosecutor said, the gun belonged to Jason Hudson and Balfour allegedly stole it during the summer. "Several people observed defendant with the gun in the late summer of 2008," Snow said.

Balfour was taken back to his disabled car after the trip to the gas station, "although he was offered a ride to other locations," Snow told the court.

Bennett, Harry Connick Jr., Jamie Foxx and Beyonce.

"It's been an awesome experience," said Tracey Davison, 40, a teacher's assistant from Pascagoula, Miss. "I have a famous living room because of the tree from last year, and my girls and I have had a spectacular trip to New York for the first time.'

This year's tree was decorated with 30,000 energy-efficient LED lights on five miles of wire, topped with a 750-pound star made of 25,000 Swarovski crystals. It was donated by the Varanyak family in Hamilton Township, N.J.

Among the thousands of onlookers who gathered to watch

the annual tradition were Davison and her four daughters: Ashunti, 10; Nylah, 9; Majsa, 8; and Karly, 4.

The family, who fled Katrina with just a few suitcases, recently moved into a new threebedroom house built by Habitat for Humanity. Parts of the walls and floors in their living room were made with lumber from last year's tree.

"It's kinda like Christmas before Christmas," said Davison. "It was a dream come true. We're very, very excited to be in the house."

Others who lined the streets to watch the celebrity performers and the ceremony were Anita McLean, 71, her son and her two grandchildren, ages 14 and 11.

"It's my fourth year, and I'm not cold," she said, adding that she stood for more than three hours to secure a viewing spot for the lights. "Just being together, the excitement of the day, it's keeping with the spirit of Christmas.'

In past years, the Rockefeller Center tree has been recycled after the holiday season, being made into toys for animals at the Bronx Zoo and mulched for hiking trails.

The tree lighting ceremony started in 1933, but workers building the Art Deco complex began putting up Christmas trees in 1931 during the Great Depression.

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NOW SHOWING



My Only U

4:20 7:05 1:05 4:20 7:05 Saturday 1:05 Mon thru Thurs Vhong Navarro, Toni Gonzaga Bong, a tenement manager, who has always liked his friend Winona but never summoned the courage to tell her of his feelings. He has no idea that Winona is also terested in him romantica**ll**y. One day, in the tenement he is managing, he receives inal notes from their late neighborhood doctor's assistant: one for him, one for Winona. When he checked his, he found out he was given a clean bill of health. He was worried

for Winona who belongs to a family whose women all die before the age of 25

Punisher War Zone

Comedy, Romance . Rated PG 13

Friday Saturday 4:10 7:25 9:40 4:10 7:25 9:40 4:10 7:25 4:10 7:25 1:20 Mon thru Thurs Ray Stevenson, Dominic West

Action. Adeventure • Rated PG

Waging his one-man war on the world of organized crime, ruthless vigilante-he Frank Castle sets his sights on overeager mob boss, Billy Russoti. After Russoti is left horribly disfigured by Castle, he sets out for vengeance under his new alias: Jigsaw. With the "Pusnisher Task Force" hot on his trail and FBI unable to take igsaw in, Frank must stand up to the formidable army that Jigsaw has recruited pefore more of his evil deeds go unpunished.



Four Christmases

4:05 7:10 9:45 4:05 7:10 9:45 4:05 7:10 1:15 4:05 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10

Nince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon

Synopsis

No one enjoys the holidays more than Brad and Kate. Every December 25th, this happily unmarried, upscale San Francisco couple embark on a holiday tradition they have shared every year since they met—ditching their crazy families for a relaxing, fun-filled vacation in some sunny exotic locale. There, sipping margarita by the pool, they toast the season, knowing they have once again avoided the chaos and emotional fallout of their four respective households: divorced parents, squabbling siblings, out-of-control kids and all the ing resentments and awkward moments that are the hall marks of every family Christmas



Australia

Friday 7:00 10:00 4:00 Saturday Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 4:00 1:00 7:00 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00 Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman

War, Romance • Rated PG 13

NO PASSES



Transporter 3

Friday 4:30 Saturday Sunday 1:25 4:30 1:25 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:15 Jason Statham, Robert Berleand

Action, Crime, Sequel • Rated PG 13



4:15 7:30 1:10 4:15 7:30 1:10 4:15 7:30 Saturday Sunday Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30 John Travolta, Miley Cyrus

NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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9:50

28 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 L I F E & S T Y L E SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sister objects when calls are broadcast on speaker phone

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, my sister, "Pam," and her husband bought a new telephone with all the features, including speaker, where everyone in the room can hear and contribute to the conversation.

Anytime anyone calls, they automatically punch the speaker button. I learned the hard way one day when I was discussing something very personal with Pam and heard



DearAbby

her husband make a comment in the background.

I find speaker phones extremely rude. Pam will do dishes, work in the yard, even walk away to another room while we're talking, and I feel she doesn't give me her undivided attention. I've tried making subtle hints such as, "I'm sorry, but I can't hear you," but that hasn't worked.

Other family members feel the way I do and call her less often because they don't want a group discussion. I miss the private chats I used to share with Pam. Any suggestions?

MARY IN WINSTON, ORE.

DEAR MARY: I do have a couple. The first is to stop dropping "subtle hints" and tell your sister plainly exactly what you have told me—including how the rest of the family feels about what she's doing.

And if that doesn't work, teach her a lesson by starting your next conversation with, "Pam, remember when ..." and reminiscing about her most embarrassing moment—something only a sister would know.

DEAR ABBY: I hope you can answer this quickly. I'm about to start doing my Christmas cards. I keep a list of people I send cards to, so that I don't miss anyone. I also make a note if I don't receive a card from someone.

What is your opinion on removing someone from our list if we don't hear from that person for two or three years? Should I assume that the individual is mad at me, doesn't like Christmas cards, or no longer wants to be "bothered"? I'm sure I'm not alone with this question.

PRACTICAL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PRACTICAL: To ascribe a motive for not hearing from someone is counterproductive. I believe in direct communication, and that's what I'm suggesting for you. Pick up the phone, tell your friend you are concerned because it has been so long since you have heard from him or her—and ask why.

There are several reasons why someone may not have exchanged cards with you. A few that spring immediately to mind are: an illness that prevented it, the family may have moved and not received the cards you have sent, or because of the increasing popularity of online greetings, people are sending fewer Christmas cards in the mail.

DEAR ABBY: From the very beginning of my relationship with my boyfriend, "Rusty," I have known he was my soulmate. During one of our conversations about marriage, the subject arose of who comes first in a marriage—the wife or the children. I was brought up to believe that the wife should come first, but Rusty disagrees. Rusty insists the children should come first.

Abby, am I wrong in my thinking? What happened to a man and a woman becoming one? Oh, by the way, Rusty has a 10-year-old girl from a previous relationship.

WONDERING IN HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

DEAR WONDERING: Forgive me if this seems negative, but while you may "know" that Rusty is your soulmate, I am not convinced. If the discussion you mentioned came about because of Rusty's daughter, then he has made clear to you who comes first. And if you're smart, you won't turn it into a competition. You'll look for an unencumbered man who can give you what you need.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles. CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a businesssized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Lil Wayne leads Grammy nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lil Wayne—the most prolific, ubiquitous and successful performer on today's music scene—was the most rewarded by the Recording Academy on Wednesday, receiving eight Grammy nominations including album of the year for "Tha Carter III."

Following close behind was Coldplay, whose "Viva La Vida" is one of the year's best-selling CDs. It was in album of the year contention, along with Radiohead for their groundbreaking CD "In Rainbows"; singersongwriter Ne-Yo's "Year of the Gentleman"; and Robert Plant's collaboration with Alison Krauss, "Raising Sand."

The nominations were announced in a brand-new format: with a live prime-time CBS concert special.

Coldplay and Plant & Krauss were also nominated in the coveted record of the year category for the respective songs "Viva La Vida" and "Please Read the Letter." Other record of the year nominees were British songstress Leona Lewis for "Bleeding Love"; another British newcomer, Adele, for chasing pavement; and M.I.A. for her breakthrough hit, "Paper Planes."

Some surprising omissions: Katy Perry, who had one of the year's biggest hits with "I Kissed a Girl," was shut out of the top categories, including record of the year and best new artist.

While Lil Wayne'e "Tha Carter III" was not regarded as his greatest CD, it was the album that made the highly regarded veteran a pop superstar, thanks to massive hits like



Mariah Carey performs at "The Grammy Nominations Concert Live" in Los Angeles on Wednesday Dec. 3, 2008.

"Lollipop" and "A Milli." The CD was the only record this year to sell 1 million copies in its first week.

and also shook up the already beleaguered recording industry, which is struggling with its traditional business model (al-

Coldplay's "Viva La Vida" was its first album in three years, and was also a huge hit.

Radiohead's "In Rainbows" didn't break sales records, but was as revolutionary as it was critically acclaimed. It was first released last fall—not in stores, but a in a pay-as-you wish format on the band's Web site. It was an instant viral sensation,

beleaguered recording industry, which is struggling with its traditional business model (although Radiohead later released the album traditionally via a record label).

Plant linked up with Grammy darling and bluegrass artist Alison Krauss for a CD that pushed both in different musical directions, while Ne-Yo, who has produced several smashes for other artists, had success with "Year of the Gentleman."

Also nominated were The Jonas Brothers for the best new artist category. While they have already released two CDs, their latest, "A Little Bit Longer," was their biggest yet in their breakthrough year. The teen sensations join Duffy and Adele, both U.K. singers with a soul bent; singer-songwriter Jazmine Sullivan; and breakout country act Lady Antebellum.

The Recording Academy typically has announced nominations like most top awards shows, during a morning news conference. But in an era where awards shows are as commonplace as reality shows, even the top-tier events are finding it hard to stand out.

So they put on the primetime event, which kicked off with past Grammy winner Mariah Carey singing a song from her classic Christmas album, decked out in a short red minidress to give some holiday cheer.

LL Cool J and Taylor Swift were the shows hosts. Swift, who at just 18 has become one of country and pop's best-selling stars, was a best-new artist nominee last year.

"The Grammy Nominations Concert Live!—Countdown to Music's Biggest Night," held at the Nokia Theatre, also celebrated the Saturday opening of the new Grammy Museum next door.

The Grammy Awards are scheduled for live broadcast on CBS on Feb 8. Last year's show drew 17.2 million viewers, making it one of the leastwatched Grammys and continuing the trend of shrinking awards-show audiences.

Jimmy Carter writes new book on Middle East

ATLANTA (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter has written a new book on the Middle East with a title he hopes will not be as controversial as the last one, which was called, "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid."

Carter said Wednesday night that "We Can Bring Peace to the Holy Land" will be published in January, just after the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

"I was going to call it, 'Yes,

We Can.' My wife talked me out of it," Carter joked toward the end of a panel discussion on human rights at The Carter Center. He offered no further details on the new text, to be published by Simon & Schuster.

As president, Carter brokered peace between Israel and Egypt. But Jewish groups and some fellow Democrats strongly objected to his book published two years ago because it compared Israeli occupation of Palestinian

territories with former racial oppression in South Africa.

During the panel discussion at the conclusion of a two-day forum of international human rights activists, Carter said the "persecution of Palestinians" and lack of U.S. commitment to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict remains one of the most volatile issues in the Muslim world.

He said when he took office in 1977, there had been four wars and Arab oil embargoes, and he saw a need to begin tackling Middle East peace in the first year of his administration. Those efforts led to the 1979 Camp David Accords.

"We've had very few efforts since then to bring about a comprehensive peace," Carter said.

Carter, 84, has been a prolific author since leaving the White House, in 1981. His many best sellers include "An Hour Before Daylight" and "Our Endangered Values."

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Mark Ruffalo's brother shot in head Beverly Hills

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—A publicist for Mark Ruffalo says the actor's brother is fighting for his life after being shot in Beverly Hills. Jessica Kolstad, publicist for the "Zodiac" actor, confirmed that 39-year-old Scott Ruffalo, a hairstylist, was found early Monday with a gunshot wound to the head. Beverly Hills police spokesman Lt. Tony Lee would say only that "suspicious activity" had taken place at the location and time of the shooting, which was first reported by ETonline. Besides "Zodiac," Mark Ruffalo has appeared in "Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind," "You Can Count on Me," "13 Going on 30" and this year's "Blindness."

Aguilera: Another working mom on the red carpet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's hard to be a working mom. even for Christina Aguilera. The 27-year-old pop star said she's navigating the "balancing act" she expected when she took on parenthood with her husband, Jordan Bratman. "I wasn't going to give up who I was before I had the baby," Aguilera said on the red carpet outside the Nokia Theatre, where she performed Wednesday during the "Grammy Nominations Concert Live!" "It's important to stay true to that as an example—also for my son to find out what his goals are, what he's passionate about doing, so it's sort of leading by example in that sense," she said. "It's a tough thing. I had a moment leaving him today to get ready for tonight of missing him, but every working mom goes through it. They know what it feels like." Aguilera performed "I Loves You Porgy" from George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

Hamm to play Fey love interest on '30 Rock'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jon Hamm is temporarily trading the offices of Sterling Cooper for "30 Rock." The actor, who plays advertising executive Don Draper on AMC's "Mad Men," will portray the love interest of Tina Fey character Liz Lemon—a doctor who lives in her apartment. Could it last? "I just finished a couple of episodes, and I'll go back in the new year and do another one of those, and then we'll see what happens," Hamm said Tuesday at a benefit for the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 **29** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson Garfield®

By Jim Davis



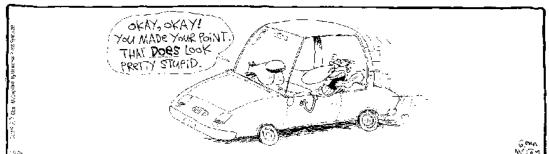
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy





CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **55 I**n 17 Textbook **ACROSS** 35 That is 1 Cried like (Lat.) medias chapter 37 Church 56 Golfer 19 Home a crew 6 Sweet section Ernie 21 Scratch 57 Fashion potato **38** New 22 Miss 9 Plead again DOWN 41 Congre-**24** The **12** Open-1 Upper mouthed gant's whole 13 Microlimit seat 43 Started 2 Past brewery match 3 Belts 26 Helix product 44 Bocelli 14 Ostrich's solo 4 Duel 45 Breakfast tool 30 Tokyo, kin 15 Gondooption 5 Skin once 47 Southern (Suff.) lier, typically Belgian 6 Bored 16 "Ben-Hur" 49 Lessen 33 Prior one author 52 Superla-7 Remark night 18 Race re Yorick 34 Wine place ending 8 He option 20 Aug 53 Dison ments. cumber Bugs 38 Less 9 Birds' bills with "out" 54 Empharefined 21 Long **10** Host size 11 Visitor March 40 [sn't leader perpen-Solution time: 25 mins. 23 Copper dicular 42 Sports head? 24 Thing of 45 Spring wind? value 25 Heid 's **46** louen home 27 Some exams 29 Grated verse 31 Petunia, 51 Compass for one pt.

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Yesterday's answer 12-5

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/retary phones. (18+ on y.) A King Stumped? Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frankie Muniz, 23; Margaret Cho, 40; John Rzeznik, 43; Morgan Brittany, 57

Happy Birthday: Stand up and do what must be done to get on with your life. If you try to hide from the inevitable, it will seek you out and put you in a vulnerable position. You have to take charge and make the adjustments that work for you. Don't fight change, embrace it. Your numbers are 10, 13, 19, 23, 27, 32, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A secret will be revealed that will help you understand something you've been struggling with. A love connection from your past may cause problems for you now. Don't let your emotions dictate a decision you make regarding work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be erratic in your behavior, causing emotional problems with colleagues and people in authoritative positions. Remain calm. Consider the consequences before getting involved

with someone you work with. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Changing your mind may not be a problem for you but the people you are dealing with may start to back away if they don't think you are reliable. If you want to gain the confidence of others, stick to your game plan.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at the opportunities and take advantage of your good fortune. You have the chance to make some vital changes that can lead to a better future if you are willing to make your move quickly. An old relationship will be revived. �����

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't overspend trying to impress or buy someone's love. Getting out with friends will help you realize what you can do to get less for more. Be careful where you leave your possessions—loss

is apparent. 🛇 🔾 🔾

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll want to do everything for the ones you love but, in turn, that will backfire when they want more. Emotional troubles will leave you wondering what to do next. Now is not the time to make promises you may not want to keep. •••

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Home decorating or renovations will experience setbacks. Instead, do things that will take you to others' residences or that will allow you to distance yourself from whatever situation you face at home. Make travel plans. •••

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It won't be easy but you must distance yourself and make the changes that will suit your needs and make you happy. Living a lie is not your style nor will it satisfy you long-term. It's

time to stop standing still. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be fooled by someone's emotional plea for help. Choose your charities wisely. Take action and don't let anyone push.

Keep a watchful eye and an open mind. **33**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll know exactly what's expected of you in order to get a job done on time and to perfection. Your know-how and immediate attention will put everyone else at ease. You can make EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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an impression that will carry over into upcoming projects that interest you. 2000

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful whom you trust with personal information. Someone is likely to reveal something about you that may hurt a relationship you care about. Consider what you can do to make more money in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get angry or act without thinking. You stand to lose out and possibly ruin a relationship with someone you will miss in the future. If you have done this in the past, find a way to make amends before the year comes to a close. OOO

Birthday Baby: You like to be in control. You are looked up to but you also attract jealous competitors. You are strong, forceful and know your weaknesses well.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed oclow appear in the puzzle—thorizon-tally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find there and CHCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY, DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The follower letters spe-

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Wenderword

GATOR BITES

By DAVID

OUELLET

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

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DigGGS Universal Press Syndicate — www.wonderword.com Alligator 3 species www.accommons.comm

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30 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
 3-Liner with picture 	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GUAM INSURANCE : CIVIL
ADJUSTERS, INC., : ACTION
NO. 06-057
Plaintiff, :

CATHERINE BORJA : PANGELINAN : Deceased. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

O THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiffs's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer with this Summons, judgment buy default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated this 18th day of November, 2008:

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO WITHDRAW

Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (formerly known as Aviva General Insurance Pte. Ltd.) intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the CNMI. An application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI has been filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All person interested in this matter should contact Rodney J. Rankin, Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan), Inc. as General Agent for MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., P.O. Box 502177, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or (670) 234-2811.

MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.

SILLE

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

NOVEMBER 1st NOVEMBER 8th NOVEMBER 15th NOVEMBER 22nd NOVEMBER 29th

Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment for rent: Brand new studio type apartment, across NMC & Riviera Hotel, brand new...furnished, air-conditioner, water heater, refrigerator, free wi-fi internet. Only \$200/month. Contact: Danny @ 287-2387.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Commonwealth Of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW09-IFB-001 CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 201 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, TINIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Route 201 Road Improvements, Commonwealth of the Northern

The project package will be available on or after December 5, 2008 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (Ole) on Capitol Hill

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on December 29, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 19, 2009 to **Mr.** Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW09-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22,2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 22, 2009, and must be received no later than February 2, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 6, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 28, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (525,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred Two Hundred forty **(240) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction and Bridges on Federal Projects FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **State Board of Education**

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB # 09-003

The Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of Desktop & Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Saipan Southern High School (SSHS). Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-003" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than December 15, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-003" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or single to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part.. if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D. Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **State Board of Education**

Public School System P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB # 09-004

The Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of Computer Softwares and Printer Equipments, Supplies & Accessories for Saipan Southern High School (SSHS). Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-004" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than December 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-004 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D. Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer



Rondo, Celtics beat Pacers for 10th straight win



BOSTON (AP)—Rajon Rondo notched his first career triple-double and Ray Allen scored 31 points, leading the Boston Celtics over the Indiana Pacers, 114-96 on Wednesday for their 10th straight victory.

Rondo scored 16 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and handed out a careerhigh 17 assists. Kevin Garnett added 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who matched their longest winning streak since their 2007-08 championship season, a 10-game run from Feb. 24-March 12.

Danny Granger led the Pacers with 20 points, while Troy Murphy chipped in with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Cavaliers 118, Knicks 82

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 21 points and then grabbed an early seat on the bench as Cleveland beat New York to improve to 10-0 on its own floor for the first time in franchise history with its 14th win in 15 games.

Mo Williams added 16 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and none of Cleveland's starters played more than 28 minutes. The 36-point margin of victory was the Cavs' largest in 171 games against New York.

Al Harrington scored 20 points, Anthony Roberson had 19 and David Lee 16 with 16 rebounds for the Knicks, who shot 39 percent and made 28 turnovers.

Lakers 114, 76ers 102

At Philadelphia, Kobe Bryant tormented his hometown team again, scoring 32 points to help Los Angeles rebound from a last-second loss with a victory over Philadelphia.

The Lakers never let the middling Sixers get too close in this one and improved to 15-2 one night after they lost in Indiana on a late tip.

Andre Miller scored 26 points and Andre Iguodala had 19 for the Sixers.

Hornets 104, Suns 91

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 24 points and 15 assists to lead New Orleans over short-handed Phoenix.

Peja Stojakovic also scored 24 points, highlighted by his five 3-pointers, and David West added 23 points and 14 rebounds for New Orleans, which has won five of its last six games.

Amare Stoudemire led Phoenix with 26 points, while Leandro Bar-



Boston Celtics' Rajon Rondo (9) receives high-fives from teammates, from right, Paul Pierce, Kendrick Perkins and Ray Allen as he leaves the NBA basketball game late in the fourth quarter against the Indiana Pacers in Boston on Wednesday, Dec. 3,

bosa added 19 and Grant Hill 17. However, the Suns were unable to keep pace with guard Steve Nash sidelined because of an illness. Shaquille O'Neal also sat out for Phoenix, hoping to be fresh when the Suns play Thursday night at Dallas.

Trail Blazers 98, Wizards 92

At Washington, Brandon Roy took over down the stretch, scoring 12 of his 22 points in the final 8 minutes to help Portland beat Washington and extend its winning streak to six games.

The well-balanced Blazers put five players in double-figures: Roy, Greg Oden, LaMarcus Aldridge, Rudy Fernandez and Steve Blake. Oden, the rookie center who missed all of last season, finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds for his sixth double-double in the past 12 games.

Antawn Jamison scored 22 points and Caron Butler added 16 for the Wizards, who fell to an Eastern Conference-worst 3-13.

Rockets 103, Clippers 96

At Houston, Yao Ming had 24 points, Rafer Alston sank five 3-pointers and added 21, and Houston beat Los Angeles for the seventh straight time.

Ron Artest scored 19 points and Yao grabbed 10 rebounds and went 12-for-13 from the free throw line for the Rockets, who played their fourth straight game without Tracy McGrady. The seven-time All-Star is out three weeks with a sore left knee.

Al Thornton scored 24 and Zach Randolph had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers, who've dropped six of seven road games this season.

Hawks 105, Grizzlies 95

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 26 points, and Mike Bibby had 20 points and 10 assists in Atlanta's victory over Memphis.

The Hawks, who have won three of four and five of seven, welcomed back Josh Smith after their \$58 million forward missed the past 12 games with an ankle sprain. In 28 minutes, Smith had 14 points, six rebounds, five assists, four turnovers and one blocked shot.

Rudy Gay finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds as Memphis dropped its season-worst seventh straight.

Heat 93, Jazz 89

At Salt Lake City, Dwyane Wade scored 23 points and Miami climbed back above .500 by beating short-handed Utah.

The Heat closed a five-game road trip at 3-2 with their ninth win in the last 10 meetings against Utah, which was missing a large chunk of its regular lineup.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 20

points and 13 rebounds.

Magic 100, **Timberwolves 89**

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Rashard Lewis also scored 23 points to lead Orlando over Minnesota

Hedo Turkoglu added 22 for the Magic, who have won two of three despite missing their top three guards with injuries.

Al Jefferson had 19 to lead the Timberwolves.

Bobcats 103, Thunder 97

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Emeka Okafor had 25 points and 13 rebounds to lead a balanced attack for Charlotte in a victory that sent Oklahoma City back to its losing ways.

Gerald Wallace added 21 points and Jason Richardson scored 18 to surpass 10,000 points in his career for the Bobcats, who won consecutive games under coach Larry Brown for the first time.

Kevin Durant scored 24 points and Jeff Green added 18, but Oklahoma City couldn't overcome 19 turnovers and dropped to 2-17.

Bucks 97, Bulls 90

At Milwaukee, reserve Charlie Villanueva scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and seldom-used Dan Gadzuric had 11 points and 14 rebounds, lifting Milwaukee over Chicago.

Richard Jefferson scored 21 points, Michael Redd added 13 and Luke Ridnour had 12 points and 10 assists for Milwaukee.

Ben Gordon scored 22 points, Luol Deng 21 and Larry Hughes 13 for Chicago. Derrick Rose, who played 43 minutes, had 18 points and nine assists but committed five turnovers, giving him 11 in his last two games.

Raptors fire coach Sam Mitchell

TORONTO (AP)—The Toronto Raptors fired coach Sam Mitchell on Wednesday and replaced him with assistant Jay Triano, one day after an embarrassing loss at Denver.

Mitchell led the Raptors to the playoffs in each of the last two seasons and was honored as the NBA's coach of the year for 2006-07. Toronto was off to a sluggish 8-9 start, due in part to injuries.

General manager Bryan Colangelo said Tuesday night's 132-93 loss to the Nuggets was the final straw. Toronto allowed Denver to shoot 60 percent from the field and the Nuggets' 37 assists were the most by an NBA team in regulation this season. The 39-point difference marked the fifth-worst loss in franchise history.

"Obviously, last night's game was just an absolute kick to the gut," Colangelo said. "When you look back, it's a culmination of things. Expectations are high. We want to win."

Mitchell is the third NBA coach to be replaced this season. Oklahoma City fired P.J. Carlesimo and Washington dismissed Eddie Jordan last month.

Colangelo said Triano, the first Canadian head coach in NBA history, likely would be in charge for the rest of the season. Triano is in his seventh season on the Raptors' coaching staff and served as interim coach for one game in February, leading Toronto to a 109-91 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

The Raptors were ranked last in the NBA in fast-break points heading into Wednesday's games, and Triano said he wants the team to play faster.

"I think running becomes a mindset and a habit." he said. "I think if it's not enforced it becomes easy to walk the ball up the court.

"We're committed to trying to find easier ways to score the basketball."

Mitchell, the sixth coach in franchise history, signed a three-year contract in 2007 after he led Toronto to a franchise-record 47 wins and the Atlantic Division title. He went 156-189 in four-plus seasons with the Raptors.

Mitchell played 13 seasons in the NBA and spent two years as an assistant coach in Charlotte and Milwaukee before coming to Toronto.

"I have a lot to be thankful for, they really gave me the opportunity to have a career in coaching, something I always wanted to do after I played," Mitchell told Canadian sports network TSN. "So yeah, it's a disappointment that I really wasn't given the chance to finish what I started, but you know what, I feel like I accomplished a lot of good things. I think the players that played for me all got better."

The Raptors' first game under Triano is Friday night at Utah.

Red Sox give AL MVP Dustin Pedroia a 6-year, \$40.5M deal



Dustin Pedroia has a Rookie of the Year

award, an MVP, a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger and, of course, a World Series ring. And now he's got the bigbucks contract befitting one of the most decorated young players in baseball. The Red Sox second baseman, who earned \$457,000 last season while winning the AL Most Valuable Player award, agreed Wednesday to a \$40.5 million, sixvear contract that could keep in Boston through at least 2014.

"I wanted to be here a long time," Pedroia said at a Fenway Park news conference. "Hopefully in the next six years we can win some championships."

Heading into his third year in the majors, the 5-foot-9 second baseman has

BOSTON (AP)— already joined Cal Ripken Jr. and Ryan Howard as the only players in baseball history to follow a rookie award with an MVP. Pedroia led the AL with 213 hits, 118 runs and 54 doubles while batting .326 with 17 home runs, 83 RBIs 20 stolen bases.

He is the first AL second baseman to win the MVP award since Nellie Fox in 1959 with the Chicago White Sox. And the Red Sox have reached the postseason in both of his years with the club.

"He embodies just about everything we look for in a Red Sox player, and that makes this a great day for the organization," general manager Theo Epstein said. "Dustin plays hard, first and foremost, all the time. He plays to win. He plays for his teammates, not himself.

"What's not to like? If we had 25 would be 32 when the contract expires, if traded and Kevin Youkilis was hurt and guys like him, we'd be in good shape. I don't think we'd be the Red Sox right now without Dustin Pedroia."

The club effectively bought out Pedroia's arbitration years and his first two years of free agency (2013-14); there is also a club option for 2015 that is voided if he's traded. Although negotiations began during the summer, the Red Sox expected Pedroia to be in contention for the MVP award and made their offer knowing that arbitration awards for MVP winners can be expensive.

At 25, Pedroia sacrificed—actually, postponed—the chance for a free agent jackpot for an average annual salary of around \$7 million and the chance to stay with the organization that picked him in the second round of the 2004 draft. He the Red Sox pick up the option.

"I understood all that stuff. I understood that if I went year-to-year I probably would have made more money. But I'm in a place that I love," Pedroia said. "My first thought was, 'I play for the best team. Who wouldn't want to play for the Boston Red Sox? We're going to have a chance to win every year.' ... It fits."

Pedroia's everyman build and scrappy approach made him important—and popular-in a Red Sox lineup depleted by the short- or long-term absences of more established sluggers such as David Ortiz, Mike Lowell, J.D. Drew and Manny Ramirez. Although he spent most of his time as a No. 2 hitter, he filled in at cleanup after Ramirez was

batted .667 with two homers, four doubles and seven RBIs in five games.

"Dustin's style of play and tremendous work ethic have quickly made him a fan favorite," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said. "He plays with a kind of gritty determination that serves as an inspiration not only to his teammates but to Red Sox fans of all ages, and we believe Dustin will play a key role in bringing more championships to Fenway Park."

The second baseman earns a signing bonus of \$1.5 million and a salary of \$1.5 million in 2009, followed by salaries of \$3.5 million, \$5.5 million and \$8 million in what would have been his three years of arbitration eligibility. He would earn \$10 million each in 2013 and 2014.

Judge blocks suspensions of the Vikings' Williamses



(AP)—A Minnesota judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked the NFL's suspension of Vikings stars Kevin

and Pat Williams for violating the league's anti-doping policy, but the players' status for Sunday's game at Detroit remained uncertain.

Hennepin County District Judge Gary Larson issued the temporary restraining order at the players' request, saying he wanted more time to hear arguments in the case. No further hearing date immediately was set.

The Williamses were among six players suspended for four games for testing positive for a diuretic that can be used as a masking agent for steroids. They have argued that the substance containing the diuretic didn't list all its ingredients, and that league scientists and lawyers had information about the substance but withheld it from players.

ESPN.com reported Wednesday night that the NFL Players Association will file a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis on Thursday, seeking to overturn all suspensions issued Tuesday by the league for any player who took the substance. The basis for the union's action is founded on many of the same arguments that resulted in the temporary restraining order issued in the state district court.

The NFL argues that the league's policy on banned substances is collectively bargained with the players' association and players are responsible for what is in their bodies.

"This is one of the more difficult cases I've had in 23 years," Larson said before signing the order. "If I make a mistake, I've got to decide on a temporary basis which side I'm able to make the mistake on."

Larson said he would make himself available to reconsider the issue "as quickly as you'd like me to hear it." He also said he expected lawyers for the NFL, who participated in the hearing by phone, would take the issue to federal court in Minneapolis to get the suspensions reinstated.

"There is no merit to this lawsuit and we will promptly seek to have the order reversed," the NFL said in a statement.

Both Kevin and Pat Williams, who are not related, sat in the courtroom with their lawyers for Wednesday's hearing, which lasted more than two hours. Both declined comment afterward.

Their attorney, Peter Ginsberg, didn't claim victory, instead saying, "It's a long hard road. It's going to take a long time for them to reclaim their reputations."

A message left by The Associated Press seeking reaction from the Vikings was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Dan Nash, an attorney for the NFL, told Larson before he issued the order that granting it would be unprecedented and create a sideshow, disrupting the Vikings team and sending a message to other suspended players that they could file similar lawsuits.

"This program (governing banned substances) would be thrown into disarray," Nash said.

But Ginsberg said his clients' case is unique and they should be given the benefit of the doubt and continue playing until the issues are fully addressed in court.

The Vikings are 7-5 and in first place in the NFC North, with the Williamses a big part of their success.

The two Pro Bowl tackles are the foundation of one of the league's top run defenses and leaders of a unit that has played a big role in the Vikings ascending to sole possession of first place in the division for the first time in four years.

"They're the first two guys here every morning at 7 o'clock working out," said Ellis Wyms, the backup to Kevin Williams. "You see the dedication that those two guys have to this team and this game.

"It's not that way around the league with a lot of guys. A lot of guys in their position would be able to take days off and chill out. Those guys have unbelievable dedication in what they do."

Giants: Pierce called trainer after shooting

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Linebacker Antonio Pierce called a New York Giants trainer almost immediately after Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress accidentally shot himself and was told where to take the wounded receiver. A day after suspending Burress for conduct detrimental to the team, the Giants on Wednesday revealed key details about how Burress ended up at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center early Saturday after accidentally shooting himself at a Manhattan nightclub.

Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon said trainer Ronnie Barnes wanted Burress near the Hospital for Special Surgery, which is located next door, in case the injury to his right thigh required any orthopedic work by team physicians.

The team said Mark Drakos, a doctor from the Hospital for Special Surgery who has treated Giants players in the past, examined Burress after he was paged by New York Presbyterian. The team said it was a coincidence that Drakos was on call.

The details emerged Wednesday as authorities continued to investigate Pierce's involvement in the shooting.

When Barnes arrived at the hospital, he asked to see Burress, by name, and was taken to the room where he was being treated. Barnes later learned Burress had been issued a hospital ID bracelet with an alias, and Hanlon said neither Barnes nor the Giants had any involvement with Burress being ad-

mitted under a false name.

While Barnes waited outside the room, an attending physician approached Barnes and said Burress had suffered no vascular injuries. She then returned to the treatment room. The team said Barnes did not know the doctor and was not in the room while she was treating Burress.

Dr. Josyann Abisaab has been suspended for not reporting Burress' gunshot injury, as required by law.

Abisaab, who's affiliated with the hospital and specializes in internal and emergency medicine, could not be reached for comment.

Police still want to interview the people at the hospital who treated Burress and did not report the shooting, as required by law.

Authorities are trying to determine whether Pierce tried to cover up the shooting. Unlike Burress, who's charged with illegal weapons possession, Pierce has yet to be charged - or talk to police.

Pierce's attorney Michael Bachner said they're working out details about when that will happen. Bachner said he did speak to prosecutors in the Manhattan District Attorney's office immediately after being retained.

Police say Pierce returned to New Jersey with Burress' gun in the glove compartment of his black Cadillac Escalade. Investigators have impounded the SUV to search it for any blood or gun residue.



PIC finally barges into win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Pacific Island Club finally broke into the win column in the Budweiser 2008 Inter

Government/Business Softball League after four tries, whipping Hopwood, 16-6, Wednesday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

A 11-run bottom of the fourth allowed PIC to finish off Hopwood after four and a half innings and handed the latter its sixth loss in as many games.

PIC's bottom of the fourth breakway was highlighted by second baseman Thunderson Sokau's solo homer and pitcher Rueben Olkeriil's two-run round-tripper.

Third baseman Cole Pritchard, outfielder Masatoshi Otsuka, and third baseman Jhun Kellar also helped PIC record an easy win. All three went perfect at the plate going 2-for-2.

Pritchard scored two runs, one triple, one single and three RBIs. Otsuka and Kellar also nailed two runs apiece with the

PIC catcher Rueben Olkeriil tagged Hopwood's Tim Williams out for a double play sealing his team's 16-6 win in the men's division of the Budweiser 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Wednesday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

latter making two RBIs.

PIC went 19-for-33 at the plate for a batting average of .575.

Hopwood was very much in the game after three complete innings, as second baseman Tim Williams connected on a two-run homer and later reached home plate on an Epi Cabrera single.

Shortstop Frank Angel and outfielder Ronald Gabionza scored one run apiece at the top of the fourth to help Hopwood tie the game, 5-all.

But PIC went on a rampage at the bottom with Kellar leading off and making a single. Olkeriil

batted next and sparked PIC's run with his two-run homer.

Hopwood lost its chances of extending the game when PIC made a double play at the top of the fifth with Gabionza flying out and PIC leftfielder Tommy Kennington throwing the ball to Olkeriil, who tagged Williams

out at home plate. Earlier at the top of the fifth, third batter Fred Salavaria was tagged out to second for the first out.

P&S 18, CHC 8

In the first game of the night, Procurement & Supply was on target in the fifth and last inning to down the Commonwealth Health Center, 18-8.

P&S improved to a 2-3 record, while CHC dropped to a 1-4 slate.

P&S was leading by only one, 4-3 after four complete innings, when it started finding its mark at the top of the fifth to take an 11-3 lead.

CHC answered with a fourrun bottom of the fifth capitalizing on P&S' errors to remain in contention trailing by only four, 7-11.

But CHC scored only one run in the last two innings with John Duenas' single bringing leftfielder Lefty Shiro home at the bottom of the sixth.

P&S did not score at the top of the sixth, but widened the lead at the top of the seventh. Centerfielder Roy Norita blasted a two-run single at the

top of the seventh helping P&S pull away.

P&S preserved the win after throwing out CHC's first three batters at the bottom of the seventh.

Third baseman Mark Flores made the lone run in the game, drilling a three-run roundtripper at the top of the third. He went 3-for-4 at-bat and had four RBIs.

Beach Boys 10, **PSS 6**

In the second game, the Beach Boys regained their form after losing to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs by beating the Public School System, 10-6.

PSS shut out the Beach Boys in the first two innings But the Beach Boys found their rhythm in the third with Stanley Aldan's two-run single sparking his team's six-run top of the third to take the lead, 7-3.

PSS played catch-up since then and after the Beach Boys' close out with a three-run top of the seventh for a 10-4 lead, the former was forced to score at least six runs to extend the match.

But PSS fell short making only four to absorb its fourth defeat in four games. The Beach Boys notched their third victory in five games.

MIGS

From Page 36

coach Marvin Deocares and the rest of his players thought Camacho was fouled and started to complain, while Diamond was on its offensive set.

With the botched play still hounding NRG, it forgot to buckle down on defense allowing Elmer Esdrelon to make an open triple that increased Diamond's lead to 10, 105-95, with 25 seconds remaining on the game.

Deocares continued to argue a non-foul call on their offensive attack and had a verbal tussle with Fyke Sabino, who had heard enough and charged the NRG coach a technical foul.

That sealed the doom for NRG, as Esdrelon split the technical free throws and Diamond got the possession back.

Mel Capalad drilled a triple with four seconds left in the game to peg the final score.

Diamond and NRG collided anew last night to earn the right to face MIGS in the finals tomorrow.

MIGS recovered from a thirdquarter collapse and held Century to only four field goals and 11 points in the payoff period.

Century grabbed the lead entering the final canto, 76-67, after trailing most of the way in the first half, as the pennant champions outscored MIGS in the third canto, 36-22.

Bing Marasigan led CIC's rally in the third, firing 13 points, including four straight free throws off an Ernie Moises unsportsmanlike foul in the last one second of that period.

CIC was still ahead by two, 78-76, with less than eight minutes left in the final period, when Cadagat made a triple from the left key to regain the lead.

He hit another one from the right key after a few plays, and Sonny Lerio canned his own trey from the same spot where Cadagat made his second triple of the quarter.

In a span of two minutes, MIGS drilled three triples and a layup from Banjo Basila against Larry Palero's lone free throw allowed MIGS to take an 87-79 lead, with less than three minutes left on the clock.

Century went only 2-for-6 from the stripe in the last two minutes of the game preventing the team from completing a comeback.

Jawn Joyner, who was usually reliable from the 15-foot line missed both charities, which could have move Century within four.

Palero, who had 11 points in the third period scoring most of his points inside, had limited touches in the fourth, went 2-for-4 from the free throw area and was without a field goal.

Marasigan had only two points, while Wowie Abuel nailed a triple—his lone basket in the fourth—in the last three seconds of the match.

Only Gil Gapor made more than one field goal for Century in the fourth period and his baskets came then MIGS had already regained control of the match and was a few minutes away from making a finals appearance in the inaugural caging.

MIGS 94—Bernardo 30, Cadagat 24, Basila 13, Demapan 11, Lerio 11, Moises 5.

Century 87—Marasigan 19, Abuel 16, L. Palero 13, Joyner 12, Pagarao 9, Opone 6, Gapor 6, Dela Torre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-22, 45-40, 67-76, 94-76.

In the women's team event,

Singapore bagged its first

gold medal of the 22nd Asian

Intercity Tenpin Bowling

Championship also Wednes-

Denise Chan Jie Lin,

Darshini Krishna, Genevieve

Gan Hui Ying, and New Hui

Fen wound up with 4,546

pinfalls to beat powerhouses

Paranaque's 4,518 and Pasay

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

Boston .900 18 2 .529 7 1/2 New Jersey 8 9 .471 8 1/2 8 10 .444 9 Toronto New York

Southeast Division Orlando

14 5 .737 11 6 .647 .647 2 .526 4 .389 6 1/2 Miami 10 9 Charlotte 3 13 .188 9 1/2

Central Division

.833 Cleveland .647 3 1/2 .421 7 1/2 Chicago Milwaukee 8 12 .400 8 11 .389 8

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

Houston 12 7 .625 1/2 .529 2 10 6 9 8 Dallas 4 14 .222 7 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver 13 6 .684 1/2 Utah .600 2 12 8 13 .235 8 1/2 Minnesota Oklahoma City 2 17 .105 11 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers 15 2 .882 .579 5 Phoenix 11 8 5 13 .278 10 1/2 Golden State Sacramento L.A. Clippers 3 15 .167 12 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 105, Memphis 95 Orlando 100, Minnesota 89 Cleveland 118, New York 82 L.A. Lakers 114, Philadelphia 102 Portland 98, Washington 92 Charlotte 103, Oklahoma City 97 Boston 114, Indiana 96 Milwaukee 97, Chicago 90 New Orleans 104, Phoenix 91 Houston 103, L.A. Clippers 96 Miami 93, Utah 89

By The Associated Press

KEGLERS

From Page 36

game series. His score was built around rolls of 204, 243, 170, 163, 224, and 162, good for a 194.33 average.

Percy Omechelang strung together games of 156, 162, 172, 235, 168, and 221 to finish with 1,114 pinfalls and 185.67 average, while Ador Dimaano came away with a total of 1.132 and an average of 188.67 after rolls of 181, 181, 229, 199, 181, and 161.

First block leader Kowloon fended off strong challenges from Daegu and Tamuning to win the Men's team gold medal.

Henry Hui, Perry Ko, Daniel Choi, and Eddie Lui had topped the first block with a margin of 34 pins ahead of Tamuning and got off the mark with a brilliant 846 fourth game to stretch their lead to 86 pins.

Doubles gold medalist Kim Young Pyo led his team of Kim Jong Hyun, Shin Sung Hoon and Lee Tae Ju to post 821 to move ahead of Tamuning, who shot a lowly 731. With Daegu closing in on the leaders, the Kowloon quartet felt the pressure and managed 799 allowing Daegu to close in further with a sizzling 881.

Tamuning continued to slid further away from the leading teams, while Singapore made their bid for a medal. Kowloon ended the final game with an 891 and a team total of 5,093 to take the well-deserved victory.

Daegu hung on to the silver medal with 802 in their final game for a total of 5,000, while Tamuning fought back to clinch the silver medal with 4,880.

the world and they want to

"But I am thankful to be part

Heo added he is hoping that the experience he gained from the two qualifying tournaments will help him regain his form and confidence.

"I was kind of down after the tournament in New Caledonia when I sprained my ankle. I stopped playing for two months and that really brought my confidence and fitness down," the MHS student said.

HEO

From Page 36

7-6(2), 6-1).

In the Round of 8 on Tuesday, Heo's streak was ended by the Philippines' Roman Hernandez, who eked out a 7-5, 6-4 triumph over the CNMI bet.

Had Heo won his third match, he would have advanced to the main draw of the Grade 4-Junior ITF event, which awards

ranking points.

Joining Hernandez to the main draw were China's Yuan-Tao Pan and Kai-Jie Lin and Germany's Delf Gohlke.

Tournament 2 was on its Round of 16 yesterday with players from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Croatia, U.S., Thailand, Hong Kong, and Great Britain making the cut.

Last week, Heo made it to the doubles main draw and teamed

up with Peru's Michel James Hukwo, but they lost to the Korean pair of Jung Woong Na and Yong-Jae Kwon.

Despite failing to make the main draw in the singles competition, Heo was glad he participated in the tournament.

"It's hard to play here because of the weather and the schedule. The competition is tougher compared to last year because there are many ranked players from all over

get as many points as they can," Heo said in an email to the Saipan Tribune.

In the first tournament, Heo at one time went home at 11pm, slept for only five hours and reported for his two matches in the morning.

of the tournament, as I am meeting many coaches, learning new things from them, and hitting with various powerful players,"

he added.

day evening.

City's 4,504.

Jess Castro captures December Ace



December Ace of the Month Tournament of the Saipan Golfers Association thus allowing

him to qualify for the club's yearend championship later this month.

Castro finished with a net 70 built around a gross score of 83 last Nov. 30 at the Marianas Country Club. The 13handicapper had an eagle in hole No. 9 and three pars in the front nine for a gross score of 40. He followed that up with a birdie in hole No. 13 and three more pars for a 43 in the back nine.

February winner Jose I. Sablan was a shot back with his net 71 (94 gross, 49-45), while July champion Nobert Sablan wound up third following a net 72 (95, 47-48).

A total of 20 SGA members took part in the December Ace. The names of the players, with their scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Frank Rosario (net 74); Larry I. Deleon Guerrero



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Jess Castro, seen here in a file photo, won the December Ace of the Saipan Golfers Association.

(75); John Babauta (75): Tony Camacho (75); Tont DL Guerrero (75): Ron Hodges (77); Mariano Fajardo (77); Joe Demapan (77); Ned Norita (77); Jung Teack (77); Art DL Guerreo (78); Joe Rosario (79); Ray San Nicolas (80); Das Krishnan (81); Carl J. Hocog (82); Mattias Chargualaf (84); and Frances Sablan (85).

In the longest drive competition, Hodges won in hole No. 2, while Norita took the prize in hole No. 17. Winners in the greenies were Krishnan (hole No. 6), Frank Rosario (8), Hodges (12), and Norita (16).

Hodges had the most in the birdies department with three, followed by Norita with two. Babauta, Castro, Art DL Guerrero, Hocog, and Frances Sablan had a birdie each.

Castro joins the other 11 monthly winners and earlier qualifiers for the club's SGA Ace of Aces Tournament.

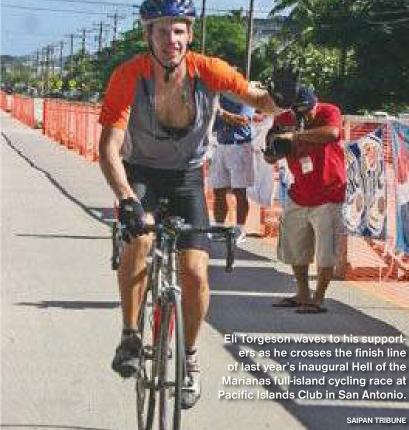
The list includes Fajardo (January), Jose I. Sablan (February),

Norita (March), Larry I. Deleon Guerrero (April), Hocog (May), former Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan (June), Nobert Sablan (July), Hodges (August), Art Deleon Guerrero (September), Steve Balakrishna (October), and Joe Demapan (November).

SGA's two-day yearend Ace of Aces Tournament will be held on Dec. 13 and 14 at Kingfisher Golf Links and Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, respectively.

The Ace of Aces awards banquet and SGA Christmas Party will then be held on Dec 19 at Charlie's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

For more information about SGA and its yearend Ace of Aces Tournament and Christmas Party, contact SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or tournament coordinator Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549. (Mark Rabago)



by Saipan's historical and scenic sites,

back to PIC's finish line. The awards banquet will be held that afternoon in Charley's Cabaret, PIC; the cost to attend the banquet is \$20. Registration for the race is \$20 for NMITF members and \$25 for non-members.

including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island,

Grotto, Banzai Cliff, Beach Road, and

PIC is also offering special room rates for the weekend of this event.

For more information about the race, awards banquet, or room reservation, contact Cole Pritchard at (670) 234-7976 ext: 5148 or seaexec@picsaipan. com or Kanae Quinn at (670) 2234-7976 ext: 5130 or dosm@picsaipan. com. *(PR)*

Hell of the Marianas provides a heavenly bike ride

OF THE MARIANAS

This Saturday, Dec. 6, 100 bike riders from Saipan, Guam, Japan, Korea, and Russia will learn that the 2nd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle comes by its name honestly—the course takes participants up the highest mountain in the world!

Mount Everest has nothing on Saipan's Mount Tapochau, with its base starting 37,000 feet beneath sea level. The precipitous ridge, laced with numerous tortuous climbs, dominates this rugged tropical island course.

Sponsored by the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, with support from Marianas Visitors Authority and the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation, the 100-kilometer cycling course was designed by PIC's general manager Kieran Daly to circumnavigate the island of Saipan.

The Hell of the Marianas appeals to all levels of bicyclists: novices

can join a team of four, each riding 25km; intermediate level riders participate as a team of two, riding 50km each; and the avid cyclist tackles the 100km race solo.

Saipan is located in the middle of the Western Pacific Ocean—1,300 miles south of Tokyo, 1,400 miles east of Manila, 3,200 miles west of Honolulu, and 120 miles north of Guam. The Hell of the Marianas promises to deliver a spectacular, fuel-efficient tour of this tropical paradise.

Besides the challenge of the course and the stunning beauty of the island, winners can also earn valuable cash prizes and stays at Pacific Island Club in Saipan and Guam. And throughout the course contestants can sprint in pursuit of money up for grabs when a costumed "devil" unexpectedly appears, holding a placard covered with dollar signs.

The times to beat were set during the first Hell of the Marianas in 2007—the first place solo rider finished the 100-

km course in three hours, 20 minutes, and 33 seconds; the two-person relay team finished in 4:13:02; and the fourperson relay team finished in 4:22:31. All sponsors are eager to see if 2008's riders can improve on these records.

Participants will gather early at the PIC parking lot for a race start time of 6:15am. The course begins at PIC and heads south into the village of Koblerville toward the Saipan International Airport. From the airport, the cyclists will ride uphill toward the eastern fringes of the island, through the residential villages of San Vicente, Papago and Kagman toward the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. From the golf course, the bikers will proceed north on Isa Drive and descend down to the Kingfisher Golf Course entrance and make the U-turn, scaling the long, windy road uphill to Capitol Hill. At the bottom of Capital Hill, the course converges on Chalan Pale Arnold Road to the next checkpoint high atop Radar Hill in As Matuis. From there riders spin

Villanueva upends Rengiil to win Monday 8-ball



Veteran cue artist Rolly Villanueva outlasted lady pool player Mei Rengiil to win USS Peleliu Club's Monday

8-Ball Tournament.

Villanueva won \$25, Rengiil \$15, and Ed Manucdoc \$10 for third place. Late entries caused the contest to begin

well after its scheduled 8pm kickoff.

Villanueva moved to the top of the winners' bracket by fighting off Ken Phillips, Taylor Watanabe, and Manucdoc.

Watanabe beat John Mongami, Rengiil topped Annie Tesiro, Manucdoc edged Ron Chisato, and Rose Phillips surprised Dean Santos in other first-round games. Manucdoc

also sent Rengiil and Rose Phillips to the losers' bracket.

Chisato came back through the losers' bracket with wins over Santos and Watanabe, but couldn't get past Rengiil. She eliminated Rose Phillips, Mongami, and Chisato and took the rematch from Manucdoc in marching to the finals against Villanueva.

Mongami eliminated Ken Phillips, while Santos did the same to Tesiro.

"The Monday 8-ball contests are meant to be fun tournaments," said Ken Phillips. "That's why the entry fee is only \$5. It's good practice and easy on the pocketbook."

"A lot of players have asked for a repeat of the Marianas Turkey Shoot, so we're going to hold a Christmas tournament on Dec. 23 starting at 7 pm. The entry fee will be \$15 again, so there will be cash prizes of \$120, \$75, and \$45 for a 16 player field," he added.

There will also be raffle prizes and giveaways, but the details are still being worked out.

For more information on the Monday or Christmas tournament, or if you're interested in joining a 9-ball tournament, call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. (USSP)

RGA Club Championship awards at Kili Cafe



The awards banquet for this Sunday's Refaluwasch Golf Association 2008 Club Championship will be held at the

Kili Café of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Aside from feting the winners of the yearend competition, RGA would also present the proceeds from its Inaugural Memorial Classic to this year's beneficiary, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

The Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo will host this year's Club Championship, which will have a tee time of 11am following a 10am check in.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said the winner of the 2008 Club Championship gets to pocket \$250 in cash, while runners-up take home \$200 and \$100.

Aside from the purses for the Top 3 winners, closest-to-the-pin prizes in all par-3 holes will also be up for grabs.

Wabol said RGA will also honor monthly winners of the year as well as award winners of the Most Putts, Least Putts, High Gross, Low Gross, Most Birdies, Most Pars, Most Bogeys, Most Double Bogeys, and Most Triple Bogeys categories.

Entry fee for the yearend competition varies from member to member, as those who took part in at least 10 rounds and played in the Inaugural RGA Memorial Classic the past year will only need to fork out \$30.

Those who played in the Memorial but failed to participate in at least 10 of RGA's monthly and qualifying tournaments, meanwhile, will have to part with \$80, while the regular fee is \$100.

RGA members that qualified for the yearend golf tourney are Luis Byun (January), Asterio Tawanpiy (February), Jess Wabol (March), John Mettao (April), Joe Demapan (May), Jordan Kossam (June), Manny Mangarero (July), Nick Sablan (August), Tars Olopai (September), Sonny Flores (October), Bae Yong Man (November), and Dwain Stephens (December).

For more information about the 2008 Club Championship, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926. (Mark Rabago)



MARK RABAGO

Rolly Villanueva, seen here in a file photo, won this week's Monday 8-Ball Tournament at the USS Peleliu Club.



Jess Castro captures **December Ace**

Jess Castro won the December Ace of the Month Tournament of the Saipan Golfers Association thus allowing him to qualify for the club's yearend championship later this month.



Rondo, Celtics beat Pacers for 10th straight win

Rajon Rondo notched his first career triple-double and Ray Allen scored 31 points, leading the Boston Celtics over the Indiana Pacers.



36 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MIGS advances to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IGS punched the first finals ticket in the Inaugural .2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League, while Diamond Auto Care forced a rubber match for the second finals berth after downing separate foes Wednesday at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.



MIGS outlasted Century

Company, 94-87, to advance to the title game, while Diamond edged C&R Distibutor/NRG, 106-98, in the other playoff match.

Century Insurance absorbed its second defeat in the playoffs thus it was booted out of the tournament. MIGS won all its three games, beating San Miguel Light and Diamond in the first two playoff matches.

After bowing to MIGS Monday night, Diamond was put in a mustwin situation against NRG, which prevailed over Century and needed only a win to advance to the finals.

MIGS' Banjo Basila pulls up for a shot against Century's Larry Palero (30), and Gil Gapor (1) during the semifinals game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Wednesday at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

But Diamond found a new lease of life and denied NRG an early entry to finals. Diamond foiled NRG's finals bid despite having a depleted crew. The Boy Garcia-mentored squad played with only six players.

Elmer Esdrelon and Sonny Ranola filled the void left by Diamond's other offensive threats, as the deadly duo finished with 31 big points apiece.

NRG was heavily favored against Diamond having posted a huge win over Century. But too much confidence against a depleted Diamond and lost of focus due to frequent

complaints in officiating brought NRG down.

Diamond entered the final one minute of the match with a 102-95 lead. NRG had a chance to move within five, but Badong Camacho muffed an undergoal stab. NRG

See MIGS on Page 34

Tournament 2 held at the Rizal

first paired against Chinese-

Taipei's Yen-Ju Ho on Mon-

day and Heo nailed a straight

ATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION

The Commonwealth's bet was

Memorial Sports Complex.

Keglers close out Macau campaign

By MARK RABAGO

mark rabago@saipantribune.com



CNMI keglers wrapped up their stint in the 22nd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Macau Bowl-

ing Center Wednesday night after competing in the team event.

Team Saipan took part in the

four-man team competition despite missing a fourth player, as Ross Zapanta had to catch a flight back to Saipan.

The game Saipan crew soldiered on as their scores in the team competition would be added up in the All Events category of the five-day tournament.

Jorge Soledad topped the trio in the team competition, knocking down 1,166 pinfalls in the six-See KEGLERS on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Percy Omechalang, Jorge Soledad, and Ador Dimaano during a break in the team competition of the 22nd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Macau Bowling Center Wednesday night.

Heo makes q'finals of ITF Junior qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

After winning only one match in the qualifying

round for an Junior ITF tournament in the Philippines, CNMI netter Ji Hoon Heo played better in his second event in Manila.

nals of the qualifying round for the 2008 PHINMA/ITF International Junior



By BOB COLDEEN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2.



Piling on

n my last column, I celebrated the spirit of Thanksgiving Day with kudos aplenty spread to deserving souls and institutions. Well, the turkey is all gone now and it's time to give out a big mug of no thanks.

For the record, I am a lifelong diehard sports fan who will get up at three in the morning to watch a Gators football game. I didn't have to get up at that early last Sunday because the Florida vs. Florida State game started at the more civilized time of 6:30am on the ABC feed off the satellite.

Waking up at 6:15 the morning of the game, no need of an alarm clock, I immediately turned on Channel 7 which has the rights to ABC programming and where I expected to see both team's biggest game of the season, which of course made it that way for me too. Excitedly, I saw the computer graphic listing a live game to be announced and assumed that had to be the Gators/Noles as it was listed on the satellite schedule.

But then I remembered that the week before, the Oklahoma/Texas Tech game never came on live, instead we got a washed-out rolling-line week-old replay of Penn St. that would have given me a headache if I watched more than 20 seconds which I didn't.

And I couldn't watch The Game I looked forward to all week on the internet either because the download speed was too slow. Double dang.

Internet radio once again came to the rescue. I had Alabama vs. Auburn video on Channel 42 with audio from the Florida radio broadcast with Mick "Oh. My!" Hubert. After hearing a Gator touchdown (there were plenty), CBS would break in the Bama game to show a Florida highlight. So I knew they had all-white uniforms. Hey, in the age of information, every little bit helps.

Football fans like me live week to week and hopefully ABC-7 will show all national ABC games in the future since they can if they want to. Or let MCV show them. Yes, it's that simple.

As a seasoned Saipan and Micronesia resident, I am used to boondoggles. Back in the bad ol' days of Saipan Cable TV, before we got live sports, I remember one Super Bowl Monday, I had successfully isolated myself from all TV, radio and people just so I could watch the tape delay that night without knowing who won. That evening I sat stoked to see the game on the tape they had flown from Guam. The first thing they showed was the final score. They forgot to rewind the tape.

The Darwin Award is given to those who "do a service to humanity by removing themselves from the gene pool." Plaxico Burress did not kill himself and so technically does not qualify. But by shooting himself in the leg, he did kill his \$35-million contract and should earn some kind of award for incredible stupidity.

And then there is the strange case of Stephon "The Moron" Marbury. Some people would sever their own flesh to play in the NBA. He refuses to play. That cost him \$400K right there, and counting.

Finally, there is a good reason why BCS rhymes with mess. The voters got it right by putting Texas ahead of Oklahoma because Texas beat Oklahoma on a neutral field but then the computers somehow put the Sooners over the Horns. I think Plaxico Burress should shoot the computers.